

## Egypt 'will not scrap Camp David'

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said Tuesday he would not heed calls from Egyptian opposition politicians to scrap the U.S.-sponsored Camp David accords between Egypt and Israel. Mr. Mubarak was quoted by Information Minister Safwat Sherif as saying at a closed meeting of leaders of his ruling National Democratic Party (NDP) that those asking for the accord to be scrapped were trading with national interests. He was urged by opposition leaders to abrogate the Camp David accords at rally last week in memory of the late President Gamal Abdul Nasser. Some 5,000 people attending the rally chanted slogans claiming Egyptians had never approved of the accords, as well as anti-American and anti-Israeli slogans. The information minister said Mr. Mubarak also rejected opposition calls that he abandon his leadership of the NDP and remain as a neutral head of state. "I shall remain at the head of the party," he said.

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## King congratulates Algerian leader

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday sent a congratulatory cable to Algerian President Chadli Benjedid, in his own name and on behalf of the Jordanian government and people, on the Algerian leader's re-election as president and wishing him every success.

## MNF ministers seek Soviet agreement on UNIFIL role

STOCKHOLM (R) — The foreign ministers of the four nations in Lebanon's Multi-National Force (MNF) will seek agreement from Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko for the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) to take over some of its responsibilities, a senior Italian official said Tuesday. U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and the foreign ministers of Italy, France and Britain held a first meeting on Lebanon Monday night.

## Iraqi minister stops at Cairo

CAIRO (A.P.) — Iraqi Interior Minister Sa'adoun Shaker Mahmoud stopped briefly at Cairo airport Tuesday on his way from Baghdad to Turkey, the Middle East News Agency said. The agency said Mr. Mahmoud met with Maj. Gen. Ahmad Bolbol, assistant to Egypt's interior minister at the airport. No other details were available.

## Ozal repeats offer of talks with Greece

ANKARA (R) — Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal Tuesday repeated his proposal that Turkey and Greece should seek to overcome their differences through talks on issues which do not divide them. Speaking during a visit to the Ankara journalists association, Mr. Ozal noted he had offered the hand of friendship to Greece when he took office last month. But he said Athens had responded by saying Turkey must first recognise Greek rights.

## Video recording is legal, U.S. rules

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. Supreme Court ruled Tuesday that home video taping of Hollywood films and other copyrighted television programmes is legal. The 5-4 decision, in one of the most controversial cases to come before the court in recent years, was a victory for the \$3 billion a year home video industry, one of the fastest-growing electronic businesses.

## Protesters block Calcutta traffic

CALCUTTA (A.P.) — Officials in Communist-ruled Calcutta summoned parliamentarian forces into the city Tuesday as supporters of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's party blocked traffic to protest police arrest of three party leaders. Police in this eastern Indian port city, meanwhile, fired in the air and burst teargas shells in several locations to disperse the political demonstrators who paralysed traffic in 20 parts of the city. Police arrested 28 people.

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## Jordan will press ahead with joint moves, Crown Prince says

# Jordan, Palestinians natural partners, Hassan tells OIC

CASABLANCA, Morocco (J.T.) — Jordan is the natural partner of the Palestinians in sharing the responsibilities in confronting Israel and will press ahead with joint moves with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) towards liberating the occupied territories, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said Tuesday.

Prince Hassan, in an address to the fourth summit meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) which opened here Monday, stressed the importance of seeking a solution to the Palestine problem which, he said, concerns every Arab and Islamic country, and Jordan in particular because "it is part of its life, external policy and internal security."

The Crown Prince, who heads the Jordanian delegation to the summit in place of His Majesty King Hussein, emphasised that "whatever happens in the occupied territories has its direct impact on Jordan."

Following are some major excerpts from Prince Hassan's speech to the 45-member OIC:

"In view of the great dangers threatening Palestine, Jordan and the Arab World, it was incumbent on us to meet with PLO, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and its independent and free voice, to coordinate the work between us and to agree on joint moves to halt the loss of Palestinian land and to prevent (Israel) imposing the de facto policy. Jordan is the natural partner in sharing the responsibility and determining the future of these lands."

"We are going ahead with our joint moves to foil Israeli intentions of exploiting the time factor, and sealing the fate of the Palestinian question."

Prince Hassan also condemned Israel's plans to build a canal linking the Mediterranean Sea to the Dead Sea, and described it as a flagrant aggression against Palestinian and Arab rights and resources, in addition to the threat it poses to Jordan's national security, resulting from the increase in Israel's nuclear power as the planned project entails.

The Crown Prince called for Egypt's return to its "natural position in the Arab and Muslim fold, from where it has been drawn away."

Egypt was expelled from the OIC after Cairo signed a separate peace treaty with Israel in 1979. Denouncing Israel's settlement policy in the occupied territories, Prince Hassan said: "Israel does not conceal its expansionist ambitions in Jordan by the false pretext that Jordan is the Palestinian 'homeland' and an alternative to Palestine."

The Crown Prince condemned the new "resettlement" plan by Israel to relocate Palestinian refugees. Israel plans to shift Palestinian camps in the West Bank and Gaza to the Jordan Valley as a prelude to their expulsion from their homeland, Prince Hassan said.

Concluding his speech, Prince Hassan called for renewed efforts to seek an end to the Iran-Iraq war, which he said, causes great losses in terms of human and economic resources.

Prince Hassan, deputising for King Hussein who could not attend the OIC summit due to health reasons arrived here Monday.

He held intensive talks Monday night with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat who is also participating in the summit.

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## Beirut gunmen kidnap Saudi consul

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Gunmen kidnapped Saudi Consul Hussein Farrah in west Beirut Tuesday as the city enjoyed an unexpected respite from the heavy shelling which Monday killed at least 34 people and wounded about 100 others.

Six men in two cars forced Mr. Farrah's driver to stop in the seafront district of Raouche, shot and wounded his bodyguard, dragged the diplomat out of his car and took him off to an unknown destination, security sources said.

Hours after the ambush no one had claimed responsibility for the kidnapping and the security forces said they had no immediate clues on which to work.

An estimated 10 assailants, brandishing automatic rifles, stopped the black Cadillac near a gambling casino at Raouche, pulled the doors open and quickly subdued the driver and the bodyguard, eyewitnesses said.

The attackers then hauled Mr. Farrah into a waiting blue Mercedes, which sped away escorted by two Renaults. The kidnappers took a few shots at the diplomat's limousine as then raced off. They shot in the air from the windows of the two Renaults to wind through the crowded street, the witnesses said.

The wounded driver, Issat Assaf, then raced the Cadillac with blood streaming down his face to the embassy along with the roughed-up bodyguard, Abdulla Al Omari, a Saudi, to report the kidnapping to the Saudi embassy, the state radio said.

Mr. Assaf was then rushed to the American University Hospital where he was treated for facial cuts from ricocheting bullets and released at noon, the radio added.

Meanwhile, Druze and rightist militiamen traded artillery and rocket barrages throughout the day in the hills of the Kharrub region that overlook Israeli positions in southern Lebanon. No casualties were reported.

Police said the guns were silent elsewhere in rain-soaked Lebanon Tuesday after a day of savage bombardment that left 34 civilians dead and 100 wounded in Beirut's eastern sector and Druze-inhabited central mountain towns.

At the presidential palace in the hill suburb of Baabda, Western ambassadors met to hear Wadie Haddad, President Amin Gemayel's national security adviser, explain the obstacles to the government's stalled security plan.

## PLF leaders abducted in Damascus

DAMASCUS (R) — Leaders of a small Palestinian commando group were reported kidnapped in Damascus Tuesday as the split in Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction spilled over into a Syrian-based commando.

Abu Al Ala'a, official spokesman of the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF), said Secretary-General Tala'a at Yacoub and an unknown number of other PLF leaders had been kidnapped by armed men led by Abdul Fattah Ghanem, a member of the PLF's policy-making politburo, and his brother Mohammad.

Mr. Ghanem later denied any involvement in the kidnappings and attacks on PLF officials' houses and offices, but heralded a split in the PLF with a call for the assassination of Mr. Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The PLF had maintained a neutral stance in the rift in Fatah, the PLO's biggest commando group, which saw Mr. Arafat and some 4,000 loyalist fighters forced to pull out of Lebanon last month by Syrian-backed radicals after months of factional fighting.

But Mr. Ghanem told a press conference Mr. Yacoub supported the PLF's political course and four members of the group's 19-strong Central Committee had been expelled for siding with Mr. Arafat.

The kidnappings prompted concern among other Damascus-based PLO factions, with two other neutral commando groups calling for Mr. Yacoub's release.

A spokesman for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) condemned the use of violence in resolving Palestinian differences.

The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) also called for peaceful resolution of disputes and a spokesman said the DFLP was consulting with all other commando groups, particularly the PFLP, to help secure the hostages' release.

Neither group indicated who it thought was behind the kidnappings and attacks, but reliable Palestinian sources supported PLF spokesman Abu Al Ala'a's assertion, saying Mr. Ghanem had led the operation personally.

## S. Lebanese protest against Israelis

SIDON, Lebanon (R) — Angry southern Lebanese citizens closed their shops and set up barricades on highways Tuesday to protest against Israel's occupation of their land.

Residents said the streets were deserted in Sidon, Tyre, Nabatiye and most southern villages. Israeli forces used dogs to force the Lebanese to remove a barricade and burning tyres from the main coastal road south of Sidon, so that a patrol could pass.

The Shi'ite Muslim militia group Amal called the strike.

Amal's top official in the south, Mohammad Ghaddar, said the Lebanese government should send its army, now cooped up in and around Beirut, to the south to help the citizens resist Israel.

Local resistance groups have been ambushing Israeli forces almost daily.

According to official Israeli figures, a total of 562 Israelis have been killed during the 1982 invasion of Lebanon and in subsequent undercover actions, and thousands wounded.

Amal officials have complained that Israel is damaging the farm economy by severely restricting movement in and out of the south and bulldozing orchards.

They also criticise the numerous Israeli arrests of civilians, such as three in the town of Sarafand Tuesday.

Shops were closed throughout much of the south Monday, the day of the funeral of Israel's main supporter in the region, Major Saad Haddad.

Beirut newspapers reported Major Haddad's militiamen went through the streets demanding that stores close.

Nazih Bizri, a Sidon member of parliament, said:

"Shops and many schools did not close voluntarily but by force and as a result of pressure, terrorism and threats on the occasion of Saad Haddad's funeral. I wish the threats did not include schools."

The nature of future Jordanian-Palestinian relations, Abu Jihad said, will be based on "reviewing the current situation and common views to enable us choose one common line for joint political movement which will serve the Palestinians as well as Arab causes."

Abu Jihad said that one of the major topics discussed at the PNC session last year in Algiers was confederal ties between Jordan and a Palestinian homeland.

The concept of a confederation was agreed upon as the basis for Jordanian-Palestinian relations, he said.

In reply to a question, Abu Jihad stressed that "armed struggle has been, and will always be, a prominent feature of the Palestinian drive for the liberation of the occupied Arab territories."

He added that armed struggle "is an essential ground for the

(Continued on page 3)



Heads of state and representatives of Islamic countries gathered Monday in Casablanca, Morocco, for the opening session of the fourth summit of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (A.P. wirephoto)

## PNC will meet soon, Arafat says

PARIS (R) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat said in an interview Tuesday he expected unity for his cause from the Islamic conference in Casablanca and said the Palestinian Liberation Organisation's (PLO) national council would meet soon.

Mr. Arafat, who hinted the meeting would be in Algeria, told the French daily Le Matin: "The National Council (parliament) will meet soon. There has been a decision from the Executive Committee and contact made with the National Council. I have met President Chadli who assured me that Algeria was ready to do everything it could to ensure the meeting goes smoothly," he added.

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## Israel plans to annex S. Lebanon, Masri says

AMMAN (J.T.) — Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri Tuesday accused Israel of obstructing efforts to achieve peace in Lebanon in order to maintain its occupation of the country's south.

In talks here with visiting American Senator Daniel Moynihan, Mr. Masri said this could lead to Israel's eventual annexation of southern Lebanon, the Jordanian news agency, Petra, said.

Mr. Masri, appointed in Jordan's cabinet reshuffle last week, stressed the need for support for Lebanese sovereignty and independence to allow the government to extend its control over the whole of the country.

Mr. Moynihan, a former American ambassador to the United Nations, arrived in Jordan from Saudi Arabia on a fact-finding tour of the Middle East, the agency said.

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## Israel plans to replace Hebron market with Jew apartments

THE OCCUPIED WEST BANK (Agencies) — The Israeli government appears intent on approving a plan to move the wholesale market in Hebron to construct Jewish apartments, the Jerusalem Post reported Tuesday.

A special meeting of senior ministers scheduled to discuss the plan was called off Monday because Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and several members of the cabinet went to the funeral of Major Saad Haddad, the renegade Lebanese army officer who became a

staunch Israeli ally, in Marjayoun, the newspaper said.

The Post quoted a senior government aide as saying Monday night that the meeting had in fact been planned as a response to "political pressure" from the settlers and as "something of a sop to them" in view of their mounting criticism over planned cuts in the budget for settlements in the West Bank. "Nothing will be done, because there is no money," the official was quoted as saying.

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## Pravda: U.S. offer is propaganda

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union Tuesday shrugged off President Reagan's call for better relations and said attempts by the United States leadership to show a more conciliatory approach to Moscow were no more than deception.

A brief TASS news agency report which dismissed Mr. Reagan's televised appeal as propaganda was buried in the foreign news pages of the national daily newspapers and the Soviet media made no further comment on his remarks.

Behind the claims of a change in attitude lay exactly the same policies Mr. Reagan had been pursuing since he came to power, Pravda said.

The U.S. leadership was trying to maintain pressure on Moscow by continuing an arms buildup and attempting to discredit the Soviet Union by claiming that it broke its arms control pledges, the paper added.

"But this sordid trickery will not be able to delude world public opinion and only shows the true value of Washington's claims of being committed to peace," it added.

Diplomats said the commentary, which echoed Tuesday's TASS response to Mr. Reagan's speech, showed that Moscow would continue to insist on concessions from the United States before it would respond to appeals for a return to a dialogue.

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## U.N. proposes Mideast conference

CASABLANCA (R) — United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar has proposed the convening of a Middle East peace conference, the Moroccan news agency MAP reported Tuesday. The agency quoted Mr. Perez de Cuellar as saying in an interview here that he had sent a letter to the chairman of the U.N. Security Council suggesting a conference grouping all its 15 members plus all concerned countries and parties in the Middle East. If the Security Council accepted the proposal, he would begin consultations on convening the conference, the U.N. chief said. But there were certain countries which could oppose the conference, he added. Mr. Perez de Cuellar, in Casablanca for the Islamic summit, said he could report on March 15 on the result of the contacts he would make if Security Council acceptance was granted.

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## King postpones visit

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein has postponed indefinitely a state visit to India with Her Majesty Queen Noor due to have started on Jan. 24. Reuters quoted Royal Palace officials as saying Tuesday.

No reason was given but the King was discharged from hospital Tuesday after treatment for a stomach ulcer.

In New Delhi, an Indian External Affairs Ministry spokesman confirmed that the King has postponed the state visit because of ill-health. Reuters said.

The spokesman said King Hussein's visit was to have begun next Tuesday. The Jordanian leader was to have been the chief guest at Republic Day celebrations in the Indian capital of Jan. 26. The spokesman said the trip had been postponed indefinitely.

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# Islamic World leaders warned of global dangers

**CASABLANCA (R) — Islamic leaders discussing the Muslim World's problems — crises dominating the entire globe — have been warned that the international arms race and deadlock over disarmament threaten catastrophe for mankind.**

United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar issued the warning Monday night at the opening session of the Fourth Islamic Summit where the absence of key members of the radical camp has cast a shadow over its debates.

The three-day meeting of the 45-member Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) is due to focus on the Middle East crisis, the split in the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), the Gulf war between Iran and Iraq and Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar, who urged Arab front-line states and the Palestinians to negotiate a common policy on Israel, deplored the fact that the United Nations had been inhibited from playing a peacemaking and peacekeeping role in the Middle East.

The backdrop to problems to be discussed at the summit was "the great danger of a catastrophe" because of the arms race and the

disarmament deadlock, he added. The summit is being attended by 24 heads of state, mainly from moderate and pro-Western countries, as well as PLO leader Yasser Arafat.

But radical states and those most closely involved in the disputes are either staying away or have sent lower-ranking representatives. Iran is boycotting the meeting because of what it calls an OIC bias in favour of Iraq, while Baghdad has sent its vice-president.

The leaders of Syria and Libya, both allies of Tehran, are staying away, despite what diplomats said were efforts by Morocco to get Libya's Colonel Muammar Qadhafi to attend.

The delegates are due to hear reports Tuesday morning on the activities of the OIC's special committees and then discuss final resolutions.

King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, a major force in the OIC, set the

tone of the meeting with a call Monday for the end to the Gulf war and an appeal for Israeli troops to quit Lebanon and the Russians to leave Afghanistan.

He said there could be no peace in the Middle East without an Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab territories and the Palestinian people's right to an independent state.

He also called for implementation of a peace plan adopted at an Arab summit in Fez, southern Morocco, in September, 1982, which has been rejected by Israel and Palestinian hardliners.

The plan calls for an independent Palestinian state in territories occupied by Israel in 1967 while implicitly recognising Israel's right to exist.

Parallel to the conference, side meetings are taking place on the PLO split, the Cyprus problem and fighting in Lebanon.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar said he had discussed fresh diplomatic moves on Afghanistan since arriving in Casablanca, notably with Pakistan's President Zia-ul-Haq.

Conference sources said they agreed to relaunch the U.N. leaders' peace mission for Afghanistan by resuming shuttle diplomacy through his special envoy, Diego Cordovez.

## Pravda compares Zionism to Nazism

**MOSCOW (R) — The Communist Party daily Pravda Tuesday published one of the sharpest Soviet attacks on Israel and Zionism.**

It said Zionism and Nazism had grown from the same roots and branded the present Israeli leadership as Fascists whose methods were comparable with those of Hitler.

Pravda also declared that Zionists had helped the Nazis to send Jews to the gas chambers in World War II.

The Pravda commentary was in reaction to what it called a mounting Israeli campaign against the Soviet Union alleging that Moscow practised anti-Semitism.

It called this a totally unjustified charge and an attempt to discredit the Soviet Union and Communism in general.

The newspaper declared that Zionism and Nazism were identical in ideologies extolling the superiority of one race and the need to keep that race "pure".

It said Israeli leaders always tried to rebuff this criticism by calling it an insult to the six million Jews who were exterminated by Hitler in World War II, but they had no right to do so.

"Misusing the memory of the victims of the Nazis is nothing new in Zionist practices, despite the known facts about about the co-operation between Zionists and Nazis," Pravda said.

It declared that Zionist agents in World War II had reached agreements with the Nazi Gestapo about which Jews should be allowed to go free.

The newspaper cited Israeli Communist and other left-wing groups as declaring that former Prime Minister Menachem Begin and the present Premier Yitzhak Shamir had also had links with the Nazi authorities.

The newspaper said that the present leadership had in any case adopted Hitlerite methods in ordering massacres of Palestinians.

treating Arabs as subhumans and calling Jews all over the world part of the Aryan nation.

The commentary appeared to be part of a much tougher Soviet line towards Zionism over the past year, during which Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union has been cut back to its lowest level for nearly a decade.

Among the more extreme attacks was an article in a Leningrad magazine last year which suggested that the figure of six million Jews liquidated by the Nazis was an exaggeration.

As part of the new headline attitude, the Soviet authorities founded a so-called "anti-Zionist committee" last year made up of prominent Jewish citizens opposed to Israeli policies.

A major part of the committee's work has been to combat reports from Soviet Jewish dissidents that Jews suffer considerable discrimination in the Soviet Union and are barred from many senior positions.

## U.S.-Israel sign accord on social services

**WASHINGTON (A.P.) — The United States and Israel on Monday approved a five-year agreement for exchanges of information on social service and human development problems.**

The agreement, announced in both Washington and Israel, covers adoption of children with special needs, community and in-home services for functionally impaired persons, innovative housing arrangements for the elderly, developmental disabilities, work-

related and in-home, day care, access to services by the handicapped, preventing juvenile delinquency and rehabilitating juvenile offenders.

Doreas R. Hardy, assistant secretary of Human Development Services at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, signed the agreement document in Israel on behalf of Secretary Margaret M. Heckler. Aharon Uzan, the Israeli Minister of Labour and

Social Affairs, signed the agreement for his country.

The agreement may be implemented by exchanging delegations, professionals and specialists, information, standards, regulations and publications, holding joint conferences, seminars and workshops, in developing collaborative projects or demonstrations.

Payment of expenses will be settled by agreement.



U.S. Marines perform routine maintenance work on a 155mm Howitzer Monday at their base located near Beirut Airport (A.P. wirephoto)

## Beirut schools stay closed after shelling

**BEIRUT (R) — Schools in vulnerable parts of Beirut stayed closed Tuesday after at least 20 people were reported killed and about 65 wounded Monday in shelling of greater Beirut and the mountains to the east.**

The 13-hour artillery duel between Druze and Christian militias and the Lebanese army was one of the worst this year and several Beirut newspapers Tuesday predicted more was to come.

The independent daily Al Nahar said in a commentary that a complete explosion would be natural if political obstacles to a settlement led to deadlock.

The Lebanese government has been trying, through a proposed disengagement plan, to stabilise ceasefire arrangements made four months ago. But attempts to introduce the plan have foundered on political conditions imposed by some of the parties.

U.S. Middle East envoy Donald Rumsfeld had three hours of talks with President Amin Gemayel Monday night and press reports said his mission was to revive the disengagement plan.

The foreign ministers of Lebanon, Syria and Saudi Arabia met in Casablanca Monday for the third time in a month. The meeting, held as an Islamic Summit Conference began in the Moroccan port, was inconclusive and they were due to meet again Tuesday, the leftist newspaper Al Safir said.

The ministers have been debating the future of Lebanon's controversial troop withdrawal agreement with Israel. Syria and its Druze allies in Lebanon oppose the agreement.

The conservative daily Al Anwar said Lebanese citizens were close to becoming guinea pigs in a political laboratory and

knew they would have to pay the price for meetings such as the one in Casablanca.

In Monday's fighting the mainly Druze Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) accused the Lebanese army and the right-wing Christian "Lebanese Forces" of shelling 16 Druze villages in the mountains.

The "Lebanese Forces" denied they took part in the fighting and the army said it held its fire until mid-afternoon, when it was forced to retaliate against attacks on its positions.

The army said four soldiers were killed and the PSP said eight civilians died and 25 were wounded in the mountains. In Beirut, 10 to 12 civilians were killed and 40 wounded, security sources said.

The Lebanese opposition "National Salvation Front" announced a boycott of the security committee set up to handle ceasefire violations.

## U.S. embargo on Turkey seen unlikely

**ANKARA (A.P.) — Turkey is unlikely to face another U.S. arms embargo over Cyprus but attempts will be made in Congress for reduction of aid, a visiting U.S. Congressman said Monday.**

Larry Winn (R-Kansas) told a news conference that if there is no movement for a Cyprus settlement the "issue of a possible reduction in, or blocking of, U.S. aid to Turkey will 'no doubt' will come up."

"Let's not kid ourselves," he said. "An attempt will be made. The question is can we argue well enough to stop this." But he predicted that there would be no total arms embargo.

Mr. Winn is a member of a nine man congressional delegation visiting Turkey on a study mission. The delegation is headed by Thomas P. Lantos (D-California).

The delegation met Monday for two hours with Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal, and held separate meetings with the Turkish general staff and Defence Minister Zeki Yavuzturk.

Mr. Lantos said they urged Mr. Ozal "to do everything to influence anything possible to im-

rove the situation in Cyprus." "There is a continuing log-gerhead there and no real accomplishment. We urged him (Ozal) to take a new stand, to make a new gesture," Mr. Winn told reporters.

Mr. Lantos added that "the Congress becomes very involved in this issue. There is the Greek lobby. We feel tremendous pressure."

After Turkey's invasion of Northern Cyprus in 1974 following an Athens-inspired coup there, the U.S. Congress slapped an arms embargo on Turkey in 1975-1978.

Turkish-U.S. relations, steadily improving since the signing of a new bilateral defence co-operation treaty in 1979, are once again threatened by developments over the strategic Mediterranean island.

The Cyprus issue surfaced again when Turkish Cypriots declared independence in their northern third of the island on Nov. 15.

The Cypriot government and Greece have demanded a reversal of the unilateral decision, a demand upheld by the U.N. Security Council.

Mr. Lantos refused to say what "new gestures" Turkey could make over Cyprus, but he said "what they (the Turks) are doing is not enough."

Both congressmen praised Mr. Ozal for his economic programme attempting to set up a free-market economy in Turkey and for encouraging foreign investment. "We wish to lubricate the wheels for higher economic attainment in Turkey," Mr. Lantos said.

He said the U.S. legislators and Turkish officials also discussed the "threat" posed by Syria, as a country "harbouring and condoning international terrorism" and because of the "military buildup of Syrian forces by the Soviets."

He refused to discuss Mr. Ozal's reaction to the Syrian issue.

The congressmen also expressed their concern over the Iran-Iraq war, now in its fourth year, and the possible cut-off of oil as a result.

Mr. Ozal has said Turkey should play a more active role to bring to an end the war between Iran and Iraq, both neighbours and major trading partners of this NATO-member country.

## Washington optimistic over peace in Lebanon

**WASHINGTON (USIA) — U.S. Deputy Spokesman Alan Romberg said He still believed that the plan for a ceasefire and a political settlement within a security framework in Lebanon was possible.**

He said he was "not going to try to give temperature readings" while the "process is going forward." He said "conversations are being held and it is important that that take place."

Mr. Romberg said, "I don't have any update to give you on the status of the talks." He said he was "not going to try to give temperature readings" while the "process is going forward." "Conversations are being held and it is important that that take place."

At the White House Deputy Press Secretary Larry Speakes said the Washington Post news analysis concluding that the effort to achieve national reconciliation in Lebanon has failed is inaccurate. He said considerable progress has been made on the broad outlines of such an undertaking, with details remaining to be worked out.

Mr. Speakes said he would not comment on news reports about special Middle East envoy Donald Rumsfeld's meetings with Israeli officials and with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad.

However, he took issue with reports that Mr. Rumsfeld told the Israelis the prospects for a settlement are dim. He also said he would guide reporters away from reports saying the envoy's meetings with Syrian President Assad

went badly.

In response to a question about news reports that Lebanon might not ratify the May 17 Israel-Lebanon agreement, Mr. Romberg said the position of the government of Lebanon "remains that they stand behind that agreement."

Asked about the Syrian position that nothing can happen until the May 17 agreement is abrogated, Mr. Romberg said, "We obviously have taken note of the Syrian position on that. Our purposes remain as they have been. We are continuing to work for the goals we have set up for ourselves, and we'll persist in that."

As for whether there had been any hardening of the Syrian position, Mr. Romberg said he would not try to characterise their position in any specific way.

In a speech he delivered on Monday, U.S. President Ronald Reagan urged the Soviet Union to co-operate with the United States in trying to solve Middle Eastern problems.

In a major address on his vision of the possibilities of co-operation, Mr. Reagan said a durable peace requires Washington and Moscow "to defuse tensions and regional conflicts," and he said Moscow could help solve the Middle East's problems if it would stop sending sophisticated weapons to its clients in the region.

The president also called on the Soviet Union to begin now reducing the level of armaments and to fulfil the aspirations for peace of "people everywhere."

## Rapid expansion, training boosts Lebanese army

By Andrew Tarnowski  
Reuters

**BEIRUT — While the world's attention focusses on the four-**

nation Multinational Force in Beirut, U.S. and French army instructors in the nearby hills are helping the Lebanese army and government win a race against time.

Under their supervision, the army is expanding, training and re-equipping into what Western military sources say will become before long a force capable of independently imposing its authority.

During recent exercises watched by Reuters, a Lebanese M-48 tank gave impressive proof of the results of U.S. army training, scoring nine out of 10 direct hits on targets 1,600 metres away with its 105 mm. cannon.

"We have noticed significant progress, we really have," said a watching U.S. captain. "I wouldn't mind fighting beside these men. I think they'll shape up very well in combat."

"They are, and they have been for a while, able to defeat any militia in the country."

An American colonel standing on a rock nearby added: "Compared with the U.S. army these men could hold their own."

The success of the instructors' efforts, whose full impact has yet

to be seen, may prove the most important foreign contribution to President Amin Gemayel's plans to pacify Lebanon and ensure its survival as a nation.

Despite the contribution of the U.S., French, Italian and British Multinational Force (MNF), the strength of the re-emerging army is likely to be more decisive in the long term in bringing peace and stability to Lebanon.

Since December 1982, under the command of General Ibrahim Tannous, the army has more than doubled its strength from 15,000 to more than 36,000 men. In March, Western military sources say, it will reach its interim training target of 45,000 men.

By June, 15 months after the U.S. army launched its "Lebanese Army Modernisation Programme" (LAMP), interim re-equipment targets should also have been met, giving Mr. Gemayel a respectable force of 10 brigades manned and equipped at 70 per cent strength.

The units, all but one of them American trained and armed, will be fleshed out later to a fully-equipped force of 60,000 men, a Western military source said.

Mr. Gemayel, who sees political reconciliation and rebuilding the army as the keys to ending nine years of civil war,

Dr. Kamal Darwish Al Ramahi 70018  
Grand Arabian pharmacy 24051  
Al Salam pharmacy 36730  
Omar pharmacy 42757  
Raghad pharmacy (—)  
Khafat pharmacy 78653

Barg taxi 41299  
Asfour taxi 23230  
University taxi 661001  
Tarek taxi 23024  
Habit taxi 813406  
Shahid taxi 21891  
Bitar taxi 29290

IRBD  
Dr. Mohammad Al Sharf 73680  
Al Wehda pharmacy 2049

ZARQA:  
Dr. Yahya Al Tarifi 81520  
Al Sabagh pharmacy (—)

GENERAL  
Jordan Television 73111  
Radio Jordan 74111  
Ministry of Tourism 42311  
Hotel complaints 666412  
Price complaints 661176  
Telephone:  
Information 12  
Jordan and Middle East calls 10  
Overseas calls 17  
Cable or telegram 18  
Repair service 11

AMMAN:  
Dr. Awad Al Hawamdeh 77665

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:  
Dr. Awad Al Hawamdeh 77665

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fil per kg.

Apple (Double Red) 360 / 300  
Apple (Golden) 700 / 600  
Apple (Stark) 700 / 600  
Apple (Sunkist) 100 / 70  
Guava 400 / 300  
Lemon 130 / 100  
Mango (large) 90 / 60  
Mango (small) 140 / 100  
Mellon 160 / 140  
Olives 350 / 200  
Onion (dry) 150 / 120  
Onion (wet) 150 / 100  
Oranges (Abu Samra) 250 / 170  
Oranges (Shamouti) 170 / 140  
Pears 170 / 140  
Pepper (sweet) 300 / 250  
Pepper (hot green) 320 / 280  
Potatoes 170 / 140

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

## 'Obeidat sees Saudi fund official

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obeidat received at his office Tuesday morning the deputy chairman of the board of directors of the Saudi Fund for Development Sheikh Mohammad Al Sugeir who extended his congratulations to Mr. 'Obeidat on his royal appointment. The meeting was attended by minister of finance, Dr. Hanna Odeh.

## Body meets to draft reply to King

AMMAN (Petra) — The committee for wording the reply to the speech delivered from the throne by His Majesty King Hussein to the Lower House of Parliament Monday held a meeting Tuesday during which it prepared the initial framework of the reply. The formula will be submitted to the house during its Wednesday session.

## Tunisia, Jordan economic links discussed

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordanian-Tunisian economic relations were the subject of discussion in a meeting held Tuesday between Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism Dr. Jawad Al Anani and the Tunisian ambassador in Amman.

## Minister chairs social development talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Social Development Abdul Salam Kenan Tuesday chaired a meeting at the ministry of departmental directors at the ministry. Mr. Kenan urged the ministry's officials to continue their efforts in order to provide the best service for the public. The minister was also briefed by departmental directors on the work and programmes of each department.

## 'Oweidat receives two visiting Soviet artists

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Youth and Culture and Antiquities Abdullah 'Oweidat Monday morning received in his office prominent Soviet novelist Alim Keshokov and poet Valentin Sorokin, who Monday concluded a seven-day visit to Jordan upon an invitation from the Jordanian Writers' Society.

Mr. 'Oweidat expressed his appreciation to the Soviet people and writers for their stand in support of the just Arab cause.

"We highly appreciate the effort made by the Soviet government and Writers' Federation for familiarising the Soviet people with the Arabic culture," the minister said.

Mr. 'Oweidat expressed the hope that exchange visits by writers as well as the exchange of publications, and translations of literary works will continue and be further promoted.

## New customs rules introduced

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian government has cancelled the temporary admission system in respect of raw materials used in foreign industries.

It has drawn up alternative special regulations, known as the Refund of Fees and Taxes (Drawback), according to a report in the Arabic daily newspaper Al Ra'i.

According to these regulations import duties and other taxes imposed on imported goods or on their contents or on those consumed wholly or partly shall be repaid, a responsible source in the Finance and Customs Ministry said.

These regulations, the source added, will replace the temporary admission system and are aimed at supporting local industries.

The new regulations will be specified by lists to be issued by the finance minister on the recommendation of the director-general of customs, Adel Al Qudah, in agreement with the industry, trade and tourism ministry.

However Mr. Qudah Tuesday said that the customs department did not cancel the temporary admission system in respect of raw materials used in local industries, but it has drawn up another system.

According to this, importers can opt either to benefit from temporary admission facilities or from the newly established drawback system.

This means, says Mr. Qudah, that initiating an alternative system does not cancel the existing one.

Both systems aim at supporting local industries, concluded Mr. Qudah.



Director of Public Security Lt.-Gen. Mohammad Idris (third from right) Monday receives a gift of equipment from a West German police delegation currently on a visit to Jordan (Petra photo)

## Idris receives German police team

AMMAN (Petra) — Director of Public Security Lt.-Gen. Mohammad Idris received in his office Monday the West German Ambassador in Amman Hermann Munz and a delegation from the German police.

At the beginning of the meeting, Mr. Munz and the delegation accompanying him expressed

their appreciation of the efforts made by the Jordanian public security staff in the field of international co-operation in combating crime and in the effective contribution they had made towards limiting narcotics smuggling, international forgery operations and in the apprehension of criminals.

The ambassador presented equipment and cars as a gift to the Public Security Department from the German police staff as an expression of the co-operation that

exists between the two staffs.

Lt.-Gen. Idris expressed his gratitude and appreciation to the ambassador and the delegation accompanying him and praised their goodwill initiative which, he said, contributes to strengthening constructive co-operation and supporting relations between the two police staffs in the two countries.

The presentation was attended by the assistant director and a number of other high-ranking officers.

## Badran visits new speakers

AMMAN (Petra) — Mudar Badran Tuesday morning visited Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Akel Al Fayez and congratulated him on his election as speaker.

Mr. Badran also visited Ahmad Al Lawzi and congratulated him on his appointment as Senate speaker.

Meanwhile Speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament received cables from the Algerian ambassador in Amman congratulating them on their appointment.

On the other hand, large official and popular delegations grouping former prime ministers, ministers and senate members called at the parliament to extend their congratulations to Mr. Fayez.

## European-Arab cultural committee to meet soon

AMMAN (Petra) — The three-day meeting of the Committee for Cultural Cooperation, Labour and Social Affairs for the European-Arab dialogue will commence in Tunis on Jan. 24.

The committee will discuss programmes for European-Arab cooperation in the field of language teaching, and in particular in forming a specialised group whose assignment will be to analyse the different methods of teaching Arabic in the European Community countries, as well as teaching European languages in the Arab countries.

The committee will also make an evaluation of the European-Arab symposium on relations between the Arab and European cultures which was held in Hamburg last year.

The subject of issuing a bi-weekly Arab-European newspaper and organising meeting between Arab trade federations and writers and publishers organisations and their European counterparts will be discussed.

Also the possibility of establishing an Arabic institute for vocational training will be discussed.

## Building begins on civil defence centre

ZARQA (Petra) — A celebration was held Tuesday in the Hasmeiyah area to mark the laying of the foundation stone of the JD 100,000 civil defence centre.

On the occasion, director-general of the Civil Defence Department Major-General Khalid Al Tarawneh delivered a speech thanking the Jordanian Petroleum Refinery Company (JPRC) and Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) on their efforts to establish this centre.

Maj.-Gen. Tarawneh said the centre aims at rendering essential services, such as first aid and fire

fighting in addition to protection and public safety in order to preserve the lives and property of both people and companies.

Zarqa District Governor Salem Al Qudah, in an address, lauded the efforts for establishing this centre.

Director of the Civil Defence Department in Zarqa Lt.-Col. Theeb Al Ma'ani said that the project came as a result of in expansion in the working of JPRC and Al Hussein Thermal Power Station, which are amongst the most important projects in the Jordanian economy.

The two-floor centre, will include offices, boarding facilities, operational rooms, a lecture and training hall plus facilities for vehicles and general equipment.

The project will be financed jointly by the JPRC and the JEA.

Attending the celebrations were the assistant director-general of the Civil Defence Department and the director-generals of the JPRC and Al Hussein Thermal Station, in addition to the civil defence committee in Zarqa district mayors and department heads in Zarqa.

## Foreign banks expected to concur equity order

By Ibrahim Noori  
—Reuter

AMMAN — Most foreign banks operating in Jordan are expected to follow the government's order to give majority shareholdings to Jordanians by 1987, banking sources said Tuesday.

"We have no option if we want to continue business here... and most of us would like to," one foreign banker said.

Another banker said: "My bank might decide to take Jordanian partners sooner to reap benefits." A letter from the Jordanian prime minister, dated Dec. 27, 1983, was circulated to foreign banks here on Monday asking them to give 51 per cent equity to Jordanians within three years.

The ruling, which gave no guidance on how to implement the change, came as no surprise to the banking community, which had known of the government's intentions months ago.

The sources said banks affected by the measure were shortly expected to approach the Central Bank of Jordan for clarification.

"The banks would particularly

like to know whether they are required to increase capital and whether they should float shares and on what basis," one source said.

The Central Bank's executive director, Adnan Al Hindi, had earlier told Reuters the Jordanian shareholders should be established, publicly-owned companies and not individuals interested only in buying and selling shares.

He also said foreign banks with Jordanian partners would be allowed to open branches, after the change, a facility not allowed them at present.

The sources said most banks here operate with a capital of JD 3 million, plus the legal reserve requirement of 10 per cent of annual profits.

Capital in excess of JD 3 million

might not be profitable, especially under present recessionary conditions in Jordan which have already reduced banking profits, the sources said.

"Our profits went down in 1982 and are expected to be lower in 1983," one banker said.

Among major foreign banks affected are Grindlays Bank, the British Bank of the Middle East, the Bank of Credit and Commerce International, Chase Manhattan Bank, Citibank and Rafidain Bank.

Only Citibank and Rafidain Bank made profits in excess of JD 1 million in 1982, the sources said. They said the government had been "lenient" giving the foreign banks three years to take on Jordanian partners. "The period could have been two years, or even less," they said.

The banks have been asked to present a timetable for giving local citizens majority equity for the Central Bank's approval.

Egypt's Arab Land Bank, anticipating the government's move, decided last month to accept Jordanian partners. A joint committee is being set up to reconstitute the bank.

## Transport minister tours new airport

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Transport Taher Hikmat Tuesday toured the Queen Alia International Airport (QALIA) and conferred with Director-General of the Civil Aviation Authority Mahmoud Jamal Balkaz, Director-General of Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, Ali Ghandour, and senior authority and Alia officials.

Mr. Hikmat heard a detailed explanation by Mr. Balkaz of the stage of development which the QALIA project has arrived at and the financial, technical and administrative difficulties facing the authority in running the airport, as well as proposed solutions to these problems.

The minister also reviewed the issues being discussed by the public about the QALIA, among which is the delay in some flights as a result of fog.

Mr. Hikmat was briefed on certain studies which had been completed about this issue. These stu-

dies show that the fog hazard, although confined to but a few days of the year, is a common phenomenon in all airports of the world, even the desert ones, and that the delays experienced at the QALIA are not abnormally long.

Also discussed during the meeting were means of easing the effect of general delays resulting from exceptional weather conditions, as well as providing the airport with additional equipment to attain the highest level of efficiency and administration.

The minister later inspected the various sections and installations at the airport and became acquainted with the food-testing laboratories belonging to the food department which is provided by Alia and made use of by all Arab and world airlines.

The minister expressed his satisfaction with the methods of handling all aspects of the work, with the high level of performance at the airport, as well as with the existing co-operation between the authority and Alia.

He then made some remarks on the most important issues.

Accompanying the minister on his tour were Alia's Deputy Director-General for Airport Services Akel Beltaji and senior Alia and Civil Aviation Authorities officials.

## Arbor Day trees planted to brighten up resthouse

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Tourism Department at the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism, in co-operation with the Jordan Hotels and Resthouse Corporation (RESTCO), Wednesday planted 600 trees around the tourist resthouse in Al Azraq in a celebration held to mark Arbor Day.

Officials from government departments in Azraq, students, scouts, co-operative societies as well as a team from Jordan Television take part in planting the saplings.

Meanwhile the department, in co-operation with the concerned authorities, will publish leaflets regarding the importance of the tree and ways of looking after it.

These leaflets will be distributed to schools and picnickers during holidays and fairs.

Meanwhile, several celebrations have been held all over the country to mark Arbor Day over the last few days, the major one of which was held at the gardens of Al Fateh Mosque on the eastern outskirts of Amman.

It was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, who deputised for His Majesty King Hussein, Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obeidat and senior government officials.

Also, to mark Arbor Day, several celebrations were held in Amman, at the Sahab Industrial Estate, Salt, Mafrag, Irbid, Ramtha and in other areas.

## Water Authority head meets delegation

AMMAN (J.T.) — Mr. Mohammad Al Keilani, president of the Water Authority, Tuesday met a French delegation representing French companies working in the field of water and sewage.

Mr. Keilani explained to the visiting delegation the authority's present workings and future programmes and stressed the importance of cooperation between Jordan and France in this field.

Mr. Keilani was appointed president of the newly established authority from Jan. 15, 1984 by virtue of a Royal Decree.

The authority groups the Amman Water and Sewerage Corporation together in one organisation.

## 'Israel plans to annex South Lebanon'

(Continued from page 1)

It said Mr. Masri also reiterated Jordan's support for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Jordan was trying to work out a common approach to Middle East peace with the PLO, he added.

Minister of Information Laith Sharaf was quoted Monday as saying that the Jordanian gov-

ernment supports the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

In answer to a question by the U.S. television net work ABC, Mrs. Sharaf said that the organisation which Jordan recognises is the "one representing the largest number of Palestinians, the PLO headed by Mr. Arafat."

In answer to a question about Jordan's stand towards pursuing

U.S. President Ronald Reagan's peace initiative for the Middle East, Mrs. Sharaf pointed out that while the proposal called for a total Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon and a freeze on Israeli settlements in the occupied territories, no Israeli move has been made in either direction.

"The ball is still in the U.S. court," Mrs. Sharaf said.

## Jewish apartments planned

(Continued from page 1)

The government approved the construction of Jewish apartments in Hebron in principle in 1981, but delayed its implementation because of political pressures within the coalition, the Post said. A thicket of legal problems also required and extensive examination of by the Justice Ministry, but these apparently have now been solved, it said.

The construction plan, drawn up by Jewish settlers together with the Housing Ministry, calls for the expansion of the already existing Jewish presence to include an area now serving as the Hebron fruit and vegetable market. The Arab merchants will be relocated in a new market, although land has not yet been allocated for this purpose, the Post said.

Rabbi Moshe Levinger, leader of the settlers' move to increase Jewish presence in the Arab town, is reported to have left for the U.S. to raise funds for the project, according to the newspaper.

Several members of Knesset (parliament) Monday criticised the Jewish settlement plan, according to the Post.

Yacov Tsir, an opposition Labour Party member, said the plan depends on seizing Arab property and would fan hostility between Arabs and Jews.

Labour's Yossi Sarid and Mapam's Victor Shentov demanded that the Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee of the Knesset discuss the plan. They said there is a clear majority in the committee against seizing the Hebron market for building Jewish apartments.

## 'PLO will strengthen ties'

(Continued from page 1)

revolutionary movement, but should there be any diplomatic move, according to the PLO it should be based on the principle of continued armed struggle.

"We believe that political efforts do not necessarily lead to a settlement, but political moves should not neglect any dimension," he said.

Regarding the restoration of parliamentary life in Jordan, Abu Jihad said that it was officially explained at all levels that it is an entirely internal measure and is not related in any way to the right of the PLO as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

## Municipality completes restoration of Al Fateh Mosque

By Salameh B. Ne'matt  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Work on Al Fateh Mosque in Mahatta is the first time that the municipality of Amman has undertaken a restoration project. All major restoration work on the ancient mosque has already been completed and the celebration of its inauguration were coupled with celebrations to mark Arbor Day which was attended in the gardens of the mosque by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Sunday.

Al Fateh Mosque is one of the oldest mosques in Amman. It was the first constructed by the Arab army in 1933 under the directions of Prince Abdullah. The mosque carries distinguished characteristics both in architectural style and structure, the director of the development and planning department at the municipality of Amman told the Jordan Times in an interview.

Ghassan Ghanem, who is also the engineer in charge of the restoration project, said that the mosque was the nucleus from which the city of Amman grew from.

A military school was built as an annex to the mosque in the 1930's and was later turned into a secondary school where distinguished Jordanians received their education. Last year the municipality decided to demolish the school which was about to collapse for hygiene reasons.

Mr. Ghanem said that at the beginning of December last year, the municipality started implementing the restoration project on the mosque under an intensive programme with the deadline of Jan. 15, 1984. All substantive work has been finished, Mr. Ghanem said, including the mosque

building itself, the 12,000 square metres of garden, the open theatre, children's garden, the entrance, shaded seating, a small football field for children and various landscaped gardens.

Mr. Ghanem said that the mosque is now surrounded by stone work, while the entrance has been enlarged but without hindering the mosque's original character. The rocky cliff backdrop to the mosque has now been cleaned, he said, adding that we are also studying the possibility of having restaurants serving traditional food and drinks in the caves behind the mosque. A car park has been constructed nearby as well.

The mosque, Mr. Ghanem pointed out, contains a strange mixture of architectural styles — a mixture of masses and shapes which give the mosque its distinguished characteristics.

This particular project is part of the police to green Amman. There are many other projects such as the children's club in southern Hashimi, Al Nasr Club and Al Nuzha Circle Garden as part of the plan. The municipality has declared 1984 as the year for a green Amman, he said.

The royal commission for the conservation of the architectural heritage, chaired by Her Majesty Queen Noor, is playing an important role in drawing attention to important buildings and ensuring that their character is preserved, Mr. Ghanem added.

The municipality's expenditure on the restoration of the mosque was low because the municipality mainly engaged its own staff in the work and because of contributions made by the private sector. The architectural design of the gardens, for instance, was presented by engineer Akram Abu Hamdan free of charge.

The process of conserving the buildings, sites and the architectural heritage in general requires scrupulous attention to historical detail, he said.

Social changes, such as the impact of commercial investment, the emigration of different groups of people with different cultures and backgrounds, and the sudden acceleration in the rate of growth in Amman in the early seventies have all played a role in threatening historic buildings or leading to their dilapidation. The strategic location of Amman as an urban centre also affected the city's structure, according to Mr. Ghanem.

Describing the role of the municipality in this situation, Mr. Ghanem said it should provide the leadership in the preservation field so as to establish general standards which embody practical principles governing conservation.

The municipality's duties include undertaking all measures to guarantee the continuity of preservation and to provide administrative flexibility in implementing building codes.

Mr. Ghanem went on to explain the importance of encouraging the direct participation of the private sector and the role of public education in preservation.

The municipality, he pointed, should document historic buildings and sites and regularly monitor them. It should also provide a budget for the proposed restoration work.

Which buildings are to be identified as important, Mr. Ghanem said, depends on the documentation policy; comprehensive surveys of different aspects of buildings are needed from which decisions about priorities may be made. These decisions should then be publicised

both in the private and public sectors. Later comes the analysis of all surveyed buildings according to the proposed criteria.

Detailed surveys of selected elements should be done, owners, associations, communities and public sector agencies should also be encouraged to participate in the survey and subsequent analysis. All properties meeting the evaluation criteria should then be automatically developed.

Mr. Ghanem said that the criteria for identifying important buildings should include, but not be limited to, interiors, structure, monuments, works of art, areas and yards, neighbourhoods and landscapes as well as sites of significant events, sites associated with special persons or expressing distinguishing characteristics of architectural or engineering style and expressing different patterns of urbanisation.



Al Fateh Mosque and its gardens in Mahatta where restoration work by the Amman Municipality has recently been completed (Photo by Salameh Ne'matt)



# Jordan Times

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## Starting anew

THE DECISION to recall the Jordanian Parliament has triggered a wave of speculations that Jordan was preparing itself to take over the role of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in any likely effort to find a Palestinian settlement. The speculations emanated from various sources, but mainly from Middle East "analysts" and "Western diplomats" in Amman and even from some Palestinian and Arab quarters. Some were so audacious to suggest that the recall of parliament had nothing to do with Jordan's internal affairs and everything to do with the representation of Palestinians in the occupied territories and elsewhere.

On more than one occasion though, Jordan stressed that its intention behind the reconstitution of the elected assembly is purely internal: To develop our political life and institutions at home, in a way compatible with Jordan's pan-Arab obligations and the Kingdom's legal and technical responsibility for the West Bank, but without infringing on the rights of the PLO as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. His Majesty King Hussein's address to the joint session of parliament Monday, in which he made clear Jordan's desire to work closely with the PLO, is but the greatest testimony to the country's intentions on the matter.

In fact Jordan has not had to go on the defensive in explaining its action on parliament, and should not have had to, despite the wave of charges and speculations directed against it. For one, you cannot stop people from misconstruing or misinterpreting your actions if and when they want to do that. Secondly, a political stage in Jordan had been reached that a baseless charge here or a piece of speculation there was not going to stop the country from doing what is best for its political and social development. Thirdly, if, by the recall of the Jordanian Parliament, some quarters thought the Palestinians would feel under pressure to act towards settling their problem, why should anybody stop them? All of us have been under tremendous pressure to save the land and the people, for a long time now, and yet there is much more to be done. And the list could go on of course.

Still, what is more important than explaining reality is the reality itself. We have a situation now where not only Palestinians have — and are proud of — their democratic institutions but Jordanians as well. And it is from here that we expect Jordan and the PLO to start an old and historic relationship anew.

## ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

### Al Ra'i: Pan-Arab support essential

IN HIS speech from the throne delivered to parliament Monday, King Hussein emphasised the need for coordination and cooperation with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). But coordination and cooperation with the PLO needs also to win the support of the Arab Nation. Therefore, King Hussein was keen to call for the strengthening of Arab solidarity and joint Arab action. Such Arab solidarity is required if we are to liberate the occupied Arab lands, end the Iraq-Iran war and bring about a withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon.

In his speech King Hussein also referred to the importance of maintaining unity between both banks and their people. Jordan, he said, has the honour and the responsibility, in view of its geographical location, towards the Palestinians and their homeland. Both Jordanians and Palestinians share the same aspirations and goals, and should work together to confront Zionist plans.

### Al Dustour: A glorious day

MONDAY WAS glorious day for Jordan with the return of parliamentary life and the King's pledge to offer the people the chance to participate in the responsibility of running the nation's affairs. The resumption of parliamentary life after 10 years is considered a major event in the country's history and another important step designed to achieve further progress. The resumption of parliamentary life in Jordan comes at a turning point in the Arab Nation's history and amidst serious events that prevail in the Middle East region.

Parliament has been entrusted by the King to pursue the Palestinian-Jordanian dialogue and coordination for arriving at a formula for the liberation of Arab lands. The coming stage is therefore of paramount importance for Jordan and requires from our citizen every cooperation and sacrifice. In the light of the situation, we hope that the PLO will respond favourably to Jordan's sincere calls for joint action and concerted efforts towards achieving aspired goals.

### Sawt Al Shaab: No adverse effect

KING HUSSEIN'S speech from the throne indicates clearly that Jordan, which has been committed since the beginning to defend the Palestinians and their rights, will continue to do so relentlessly and in cooperation with the PLO, the representative of the Palestinian people. He pointed out that the reconvening of parliament will by no means have an adverse effect on the status of the PLO. He also pointed out that Arab solidarity cannot be achieved without the full mobilisation of Arab resources.

In connection with this mobilisation, Egypt has to return to the Arab ranks and contribute effectively towards the fulfilment of Arab aspirations. In his speech, King Hussein said that Arab solidarity is also needed to help end the Iraq-Iran war and to help bring about the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon.

## MIDDLE EAST HORIZON

# Getting used to calling the wrong tune

By Tara Bradford

DURING THE Iranian hostage crisis in 1980, the United States showed itself and the rest of the world that its defence and foreign policies could be confounded by a previously-unknown faction. It demonstrated that it was willing to negotiate with kidnappers; that its military and covert forces were faulty and impotent; that its political intelligence was porous. Even worse, it lost clarity of vision in its foreign policy when clarity was needed most.

The lesson that should have been learned from this painful experience is now being exemplified in the Middle East, particularly in Lebanon. In Iran, the U.S. did not really head what was happening once the Shah was deposed; instead, it made a crucial error of paying attention to the wrong Iran: the middle class. Because the Iranian Revolution was a revolution of the streets, that is where the U.S. intelligence should have been looking. Had it done so, it would have seen itself as the new country's declared enemy, the only one in sight since the Shah had fled for safer havens.

Meanwhile in the Middle East, a similar fire is heating up. Once again the Reagan

administration's shaky foreign policy is complicating what began as Lebanon's civil war, but has spread like cancer, encompassing the international community. The U.S. and other Western nations are supporting a minority government beset by so many problems, both internal and external no fail-safe solution appears imminent. And the U.S. is taking a near-sighted view when focusing on the behind-the-scenes negotiations in Lebanon.

The tragic casualties among the multinational "peace-keeping" force will occur again and again as long as fanatical "suicide bombers" believe striking out against the "great Satan" (the U.S., in their opinion; is their martyr's ticket to heaven. Powerless to control the series of struggles in Lebanon and other countries in the region, they are lashing out against the nearest symbol of power and imperialism.

The Reagan administration must surely realise this sort of fanaticism cannot be easily controlled, but it responds in the most superficial and simplistic way by beefing up security at its embassies, including Amman, with concrete barriers

and blocks, cleverly disguised with paint and greenery. However, no one is fooled by their sudden interest in horticulture. The recently-erected barriers are effective purely in the psychological sense: realistically there is no way to prevent a truck filled with explosives from penetrating compound walls.

Once again, the U.S. administration is making the potentially-fatal error of treating a symptom and not the disease itself. When it comes to making diplomatic decisions or entering into diplomatic relationships, the U.S. still has dangerously little perspective.

Why is it considered in the United States best interests to follow the pro-Israeli course in which it has become increasingly involved? Why does the American government make decisions seemingly so lightly, so glibly, about matters that affect so many lives, both American and foreign? Why, after years of the escalating Arab-Israeli conflict does the U.S. fail to understand the most basic questions about the Middle East and its political priorities? Why does it continue arming Israel to the hilt and stubbornly cling to atti-

tudes perceived by almost everybody but the U.S. as no longer valid?

Why at a press conference last week in Amman, did American Congressmen voice concern about Jordan's security and talk as though doubling U.S. military aid to Jordan this year will compensate for the massive amounts funnelled on a daily basis into Israel?

Asked why it is in the best interests of the U.S. to direct the lion's share of its foreign aid to Israel, Congressman Matthew McHugh of New York repeated the tired line: "U.S. policy for many years has been tied to a strong and secure Israel (news flash!). But, he hastened to add: this does not preclude providing help to other 'friends' in the region such as Jordan. (And he never really answered the question.) So, what? Even doubling military aid to Jordan does not begin to measure up to Israel's gift quota from the U.S.

What was most ludicrous about that particular question-and-answer session with reporters was the inference that in spite of all the U.S. aid, both military and economic, the U.S. cannot control Israel.

One reporter questioned Israel's refusal to recognise the Palestinians or withdraw from the occupied territories while at the same time expecting Jordan to enter the peace process. What remained unsaid, but was surely on everyone's mind was why should Jordan get involved in negotiations with Israel, a country obviously unconcerned about anyone but itself?

Congressman William Lehman's fascinating response: "One of the things we found out is that when we try to use so-called pressure tactics on Israel, it works sometimes in reverse and makes Israel more aggressive than less aggressive because they become more fearful; and when they become more fearful about losing American support they become more difficult to deal with. I think, by the way we have been able to be supportive of Israel militarily and economically, we hope we can keep them in the peace process and have Israel work out the difficulties with the West Bank..."

The implication here is that Israel is being "bribed" with weapons and aid in order to insure its participation in fut-

ure peace negotiations even though Israel defiantly persists in "biting the hand that feeds it." Let's face it, without the support of its powerful Western ally, Israel would be just another country and not a threat to neighbouring states. Yet Israel continues to ignore U.S. directives (should I say "suggestions"?), and chart its own course, including establishing more and more settlements that the American government has repeatedly referred to as "illegal."

So why does the U.S. encourage Israel's lawlessness? Simply because it has a history of supporting Israel? Let's it past time the U.S. re-evaluate this policy and think that like in Iran, just maybe it is overestimating one party (Israel), and underestimating the other (the Arabs)?

If the U.S. truly expects Jordan and the Palestinians to actively join in any peace process, the U.S. must make appropriate concessions in terms of support for them and stop favouring Israel over all others. The price of recklessly pursuing the Reagan administration's current Middle East policy is too high: for the Americans and for the Arabs.

## New York's 'Jewish Press' — in defence of a racist trend

By H.J. Skutell

### Part II

"There is a mystical component to your Jewishness that transcends all logic and laws. It is in your blood, seared into your flesh, and it will cling to you throughout your life."

Elsewhere she speaks of the "drama" of Jewish martyrdom having been "imprinted on our psyches as a nation. It has been incorporated into our spiritual genes..." Her columns often recount seemingly contrived tales of how "assimilated" Jews become disillusioned with their non-Jewish spouses or lovers, who could not relate to the Jews tragic past, and after a fateful encounter with the charismatic Rebbeztin surrender to the incontestable call of their ancestral ties. "After that trip to Sicily," confesses a "successful author" who subsequently divorced her Italian husband, "more than anything I wanted to go to Israel." Another brand plucked from the burning!

### Koran slanted

Most fearful of racial contamination in ex-New Yorker

### No one Jewish people

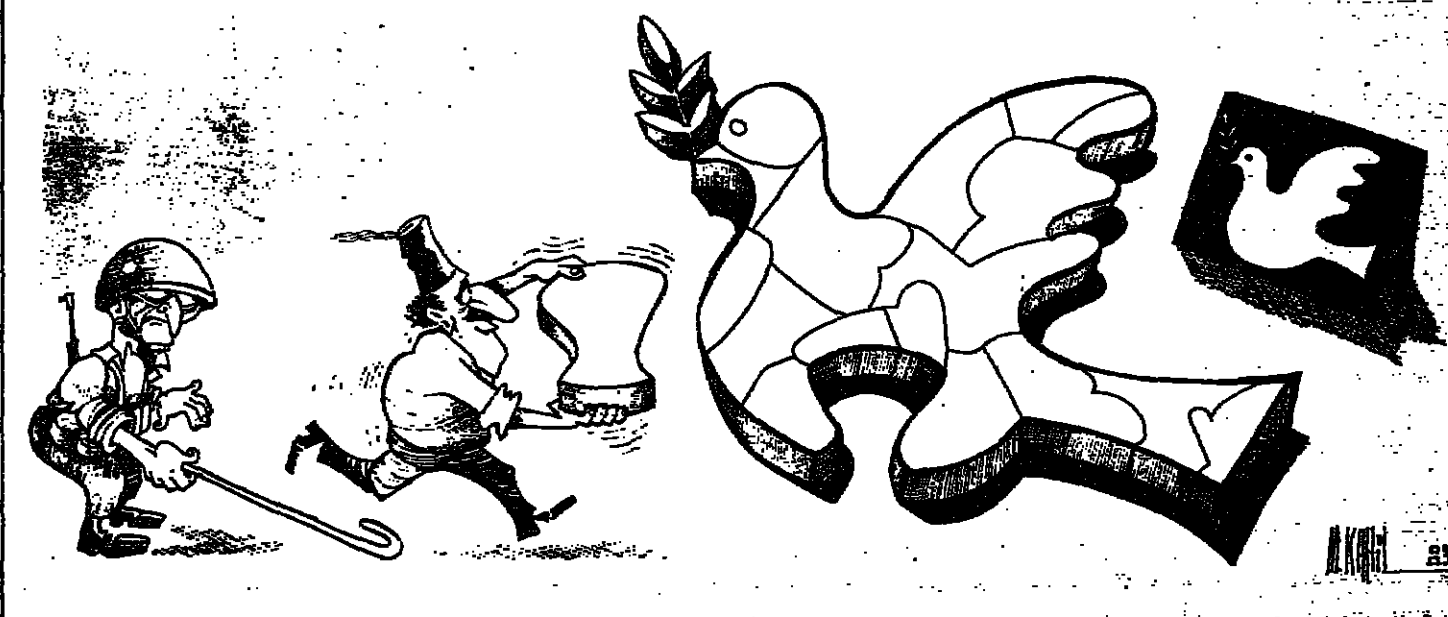
Not too long ago, Professor Harvey Molotch of the Department of Sociology at the University of California at Santa Barbara stirred up controversy by saying, "The myth of Israel is the dogma that there is one Jewish people — a people who are the direct descendants of the Hebrews who fled the Holy Land when the Romans destroyed the ancient (Second Temple) in 54 B.C." This is a point which we have long advanced and almost belabored. The right of the Jews to return to Palestine on the basis that their ancestors were there and they are in the direct line of descent is part of the gross myth-information about which we have continually warned our readers ever since "What Price Israel?" was published. It is good to have one's work corroborated by real experts.

Rabbi Meir Kahane, founder of the Jewish Defense League, who now resides on the occupied West Bank where he heads the ultra-nationalist Kah Party. Its platform proclaims: "The people of Israel are a special, chosen, holy and higher nation." Judaism, affirms Kahane, "was meant to cre-

ate a Jewish people separate and distinct. Separation not integration is the cry of Judaism." When the "establishment" and Zionist Anti-Defamation League of the B'nai B'rith (ADL) took legal action last year against the allegedly anti-Semitic Ocean Club in Atlantic Beach (New York) Kahane, faithful to his segregationist doctrine, announced: "I stand firmly behind the anti-Semites and applaud their efforts to insure that the Jew will not be able to enter their club. For I applaud and support anyone who will, in some small way, keep Jews from the sweet smell of assimilated success. The ADL's suit is aimed at giving Jews the right to eat, drink, sleep and marry with the gentile. I put it to you that in this bizarre case, the ADL is the enemy of the Jewish people and the anti-Semites their greatest friends."

To the degree that the Jewish Press exalts Israel and the Jews, the Arabs and Islam are denigrated. This, as the Tunisia Jew Albert Memmi explains, is part of the "racist process" whereby negative values and hostile intentions are assigned to the victim to prove, respectively, the "superiority of the racist" and the legitimacy of his own actual or contemplated acts of aggression against the victim.

In his article "Arabs and Nazis: What Do These People Have in Common?", run on June 26, 1981 and again on Jan. 15, 1982, writer Max Kessler cites the Koran as the sources of the "Arab-Nazi mentality." Presented out of context and with important omissions are genocidal-sounding passages from the Muslim Holy Book calling for the killing or expulsion of "disbelievers." Quotes Kessler: "And when ye meet those who misbelieve — then strike off the heads until ye have massacred them, and bind fast the bonds" — when the passage should read: "When you meet the unbelievers in the (battlefield) strike off their heads, and when you have laid them low, bind your captives firmly. Then grant them their freedom or taken ransom from them, until War shall lay down her armour." Again from Kessler: "Kill them wherever ye find them, and drive them out from whence they drive you out; for sedition is worse than slaughter." A more accurate rendering of the original would be: "Fight for the same of Allah those that fight against you, but do not



attack them first. Allah does not love aggressors. Kill them wherever you find them. Drive them out of the places from where they drove you. 'Idolatry' is worse than carnage."

### Reoccurring racism

Quite apart from the fact that the ancient Israelites exuberantly butchered the idolatrous adversaries of 'Yahweh', Kessler, by design or ignorance, leads his readers to believe that "disbelievers", according to the Koran, are all those who are not Muslims. "The above quotes apply to Christians, Jews, Hindus, etc.," states the writer. In fact, adherents of these religions, in so far as they revere one, invisible Supreme Creator (Allah); and "observe the Torah and Gospel" (inspired by Allah), are, technically speaking, considered by Islam as "believers" (The Koran says nothing specific about Hinduism which while recognising one all pervading God, Brahman, does have certain polytheistic tendencies.) Kessler, however, goes on to conclude that this "theological basis of hatred for Jews and Judaism", coupled with the political realities of today, preclude any consideration of a "Palestinian" state beside Israel.

"Jewish Press" readers entertain with most Westerners a composite image of Arabs as impoverished, profligate, dirty, mendacious and cruel — conceptions the paper's columnists take every opportunity to enhance. "... Throughout history the sons of Ishmael have been renowned for their thievery," writes Jungreis. "The Bible itself proclaims them

to be 'lawless men who do not hesitate to take possession of that which does not belong to them.'"

Describing her Sabbath visit to Jerusalem, writer Sylvia Machlis juxtaposes two incommensurable scenes of Jewish and Arab life and succeeds in creating an unfavourable impression of the latter.

### Believe it or not

"I shall not be ashamed to confess that, if I had the power, as I have the will, I would select a score of efficient young men — intelligent, decent, devoted to our ideal and burning with the desire to help redeem Jews are absorbed in sinful self-satisfaction. The task of these young men would be to disguise themselves as non-Jews, and, acting upon the brutal Zionist, plague these Jews with anti-Semitic slogans, such as 'Blood Jew', 'Jews go to Palestine', and similar 'intimacies.' I can vouch that the results, in terms of a considerable immigration to Israel from these countries, would be ten thousand times larger than the results brought by thousands of emissaries who have been preaching for decades to deaf ears."

— David Ben-Gurion

Among the Jews, the "table was set, the aroma from the Shabbos cooking permeated each nook and crevice of the home and left the individual saturated with the Shabbos flavour." The next day, on the way to the Damascus Gate, she is encompassed by Arabs. "We intermingled, and the smells

— the aroma of the 'Shuk' pierced our very nostrils, our very clothes". She notes the "small Arab children" who were "running to and fro barefooted, often stopping to pat a donkey's head..." In the absence of any appreciation for the "objective conditions which the victim is made to endure," it is easy to regard, Memmi points out a "genuine inadequacy" — in this case economic deprivation — as if it were an innate "defect or flaw".

Nevertheless, for Dr. Hyman S. Frank, the well-heeled Saudis are "goatherders and camel riders": in Ramle-Lydda, says Kahane, the Arabs "pollute the two towns" by their presence and "multiply with their sheep, goats, chickens and open sewerage..." A reoccurring racist theme in Kahane's writing concerns the "victim's" predilection for sexual criminality. In particular, he inveighs against their ravenous pursuit of Jewish women:

"Arab jackals with Jewish money in their pockets go into the Israeli evenings, seeking daughters of our people. They find them, wine and dine them, bed them — and often wed them. They defile the seed of the Holy people..."

Concluding a self-congratulatory article on Jewish contributions to humanity — which have benefited "millions of Arab lives" — columnist Arnold Fine turned to the cultural legacy of the Arab World. The redundancies, twisted syntax and defamatory simplifications are, of course, solely his:

"Indeed we are grateful to the Arabs. If not for them we might have gardens where the deserts

now stand. They destroyed the cisterns and irrigation systems created by the Jews and others, and took garden spots and turned them into arid dry lands for centuries."

Without Arabs in the Middle East, America might not have been the black slave trade that tore thousands of Black families apart and gave this nation a scar it may never heal.

Indeed what would have done without Arabs who sparked the growth of narcotics and continually smuggle those deadly drugs into this nation? Indeed what would we have done without them? Look at the employment they give to hundreds of law enforcement officers in this nation."

### Jewish destiny

Rigorously schooled in their "chosenness" and confronted with a caricatured enemy stripped of any redeeming qualities, readers of the "Jewish Press" are understandably supportive of Zionism's every "pre-emptive" attack against, and depopulation of, the Palestinian and other Arabs. Besides, to feel sympathy for these descendants of the Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, etc. — squatters on the Jewish patrimony — is to reveal a Talmudically unwarranted "gentle morality". Meanwhile, the political upheavals, sectarian clashes and open warfare which convulse the Middle East are merely manifestations of the divine will reconciling the world to the imperatives of Jewish destiny.

Middle East Perspective, New York.

## Pretoria beats Mozambique into suspending support for ANC

By Neil Lewis

Retuer

JOHANNESBURG — South Africa's regional strategy of using military might to force its neighbours to deny havens to black nationalist guerrillas appears to be starting to succeed in Mozambique, but not Angola.

South Africa and Mozambique met this week for a key round of talks on security issues and economic relations. The economic subjects include the possible resumption of large-scale, cross-border tourism, suggesting just how much ties could improve between the two neighbours.

Relations between Pretoria and Maputo have deteriorated in recent

years with each accusing the other of supporting anti-government guerrilla movements.

In the past year, South Africa has carried out military strikes against alleged bases of the African National Congress (ANC) in Maputo and in Maseru, capital of Lesotho, an independent enclave within the white-ruled state. The ANC is the principal black guerrilla group fighting white minority rule in South Africa.

Prime Minister P.W. Botha warned in a new year's eve message that South Africa would not hesitate to strike against its neighbours who harbour black guerrillas.

In an interview last year, Gen. Constand Viljoen, chief of South Africa's defence force, outlined

Pretoria's strategy for preventing black guerrillas from threatening white rule when he said the ANC would be rendered ineffective if denied bases in neighbouring states through military and other means.

The ANC could issue statements from distant European and African capitals but could not launch attacks from them, he added.

The security talks with Mozambique centre on whether Maputo would pledge to prevent the ANC from operating on its soil. In exchange, South Africa might have to curtail the activities of the Mozambican National Resistance (MNR), widely believed by analysts to receive much of its support from Pretoria.

If the talks succeed, South Africa will have achieved its goal of making its northeast border relatively safe from infiltration by saboteurs and guerrilla fighters.

But to the northwest in Namibia (South West Africa), South Africa remains locked in fighting with Angola and guerrillas of the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO).

The issues there are far more complicated than in Mozambique. In defiance of United Nations resolutions, Pretoria administers the vast, mineral-rich territory, which serves as a buffer between South Africa and Angola, like Mozambique a former Portuguese colony and now an independent Marxist state.

South Africa says it does not

wish to control Namibia, but privately South African officials say they would not accept a SWAPO government, which they believe would inevitably be hostile, on their border.

In its fight against SWAPO, South Africa has adopted a similar technique of making cross-border raids in this case into Angola, to attack guerrilla bases.

But the Angolan government, reinforced by an estimated 25,000 Cuban troops, has not been easily intimidated.

South Africa says its troops are currently withdrawing from a five-week-long major offensive into southern Angola where they encountered heavy opposition from Angolan government and Cuban forces in addition to

SWAPO.

Gen. Viljoen said the offensive was designed to foil an annual rainy-season infiltration into Namibia from bases in Angola by SWAPO guerrillas.

A recent round of diplomatic activity at the United Nations aimed at achieving a Namibian ceasefire seems to be foundering, political analysts said. The parties involved, while each offering to agree to a military stand-down, have set conditions unacceptable to the other side.

The analysts also said that South Africa's strategy appeared to have paid off in relations with Lesotho, where the government, while verbally hostile to Pretoria, has apparently denied haven to ANC members.



Is the hotel industry in Jordan really on the wane?

## Part of a world-wide tourist crisis

By Ibrahim Abu Nab

AMMAN—Is it true that the tourist industry in Jordan now faces a chronic crisis? And could rumours be correct about this industry being unable to contribute one sixth of the country's 1984 national income as it was expected to if the state of affairs persists? If these rumours turn out to be true, then we ought to find the real reasons behind this appalling situation and reach proper solutions.

The real situation in the opinion of certain hotel owners and those concerned with the tourist industry might not be so gloomy as its sounds, but definitely it has not been so bright of late. It is no secret that in the past few months hotels received orders to cancel reservations by many foreign tourists and vacationers. In Aqaba, cancellations of reservations reached up to 95 per cent, and business went down to a mere 20 per cent for a number of hotels in the sea-port city—a level at which

hotels normally find it quite impossible to operate. Their income was so low that it was not sufficient to cover the cost of operation, let alone improving services, and this has forced a number of hotels in Aqaba to close their doors or to close several wings or floors.

To understand the real situation in the hotel business, I interviewed Dr. Sami'an Qousus, owner of the Miramar hotel in Aqaba. He said: "Five years ago, Aqaba was teeming with tourists and vacationers and I myself delved into the hotel business because it had certain attractive facets, although I knew very little about tourism then. At present, Aqaba is a bleak town with no tourists, and I wish I had never involved myself in this business at all."

According to Mr. Zuhair Ajlouni, president of the Jordan Hotels Association (JHA), four hotels in Aqaba were forced to close down in the past two weeks and he fears the hotel industry there is on the verge of collapse.

In view of the situation, JHA

has decided to reduce by half annual subscription fees required from its members, and is reducing subscription fees required from hotels by 50 per cent, and even up to 95 per cent for hotels in Aqaba, which is considered "disaster area."

Over the past weeks there were calls by owners of major hotels in Jordan for a meeting to review the situation and find proper solutions. "A number of meetings actually took place and I urged a government official who serves as board chairman of one of Aqaba's hotels to try to help find a solution to the hotel problems by explaining the situation to the government, Mr. Ajlouni said. But he said the government official requested a detailed and documented study to be prepared first before the situation can be dealt with. No detailed study has been done and the problem remains unresolved, Mr. Ajlouni added.

But the closure of four hotels does not foreshadow a real danger in the opinion of Mr. Fahd Al

Panek, a well-known economic commentator. He said: "Jordan has a total of 258 hotels, of which 108 are classified, and the closure of four should not cause so much concern. In fact the hotel business has lately witnessed a noticeable expansion, and the public sector had contributed to this expansion by opening many hotels without due consideration. Now, with more hotels than Jordan can use and operate, the market is only adjusting itself to reality and a number of small hotels are being forced to close in the process. Those which closed have found it hard to cope with the current situation, and unable to compete with the larger hotels. Had the large and more luxurious hotels been forced to close, then we would have feared the hotel business in Jordan facing a real danger."

Asked to comment on the situation, the director of "tourism marketing" at the Ministry of Tourism Mr. Abdul Rahman Al Bahri said: "The drop in the number of tourists visiting Jordan in the past three months should be regarded as a temporary phenomenon due to political events in 1983, particularly in the Middle East. This has caused tourists to cancel reservations. The situation is expected to improve during 1984. In fact the hotel business in the whole Middle East region has dropped lately, and in the Israeli sea port of Eilat for instance business has been reduced to a mere 47 per cent."

This clearly conflicts with the opinion of Mr. Qousus, who considers the problem a chronic one and not only temporary due, as he said, to internal reasons. He said that Jordan's tourist industry has no real identity and is not regarded as an industry as such. Laws and regulations applicable to other types of Jordanian industry are not applied to tourism as well, he said. For example hotels find it almost impossible to pay up their exorbitant electricity and water bills, something other industries in Jordan are not subjected to.

However, most commentators and particularly those who work in the hotel business reflect a less optimistic outlook and a more complicated situation than that presented by Mr. Bahri and Mr. Panek. They admit that there are problems of various kinds but they are almost unanimous in agreeing that certain chronic elements continue to exist, endangering the future of the hotel business in Jordan.

It is true that hotel owners tend to view the situation from their own narrow angles whenever they hear of a hotel closing down due to poor business, says Mr. Hisham Daqqag, manager of the Amb-

assador hotel, but hotels in general always have had reasons to complain bitterly.

In his opinion, a very limited number of Jordanian hotels can claim that they operate at a level higher than 20 per cent of capacity, and actually those making profit are hotels largely owned by the public sector. He believes public sector hotels compete with the private sector hotels and this indeed causes an adverse impact on tourism, because such hotels never have to face the gloomy prospect of closing down if no profits are realised. They can always rely on government subsidy, he explained. Hotels with foreign management actually make profit at the expense of Jordanian private hotels. He said Jordanian hotel owners believe foreign managements in big hotels add to the problem. Despite the praise heaped by the JHA president on the Intercontinental and Marriot hotels for offering Jordanian personnel training in the hotel management business, yet private hotel owners feel that only the managements of such big hotels are the prime beneficiaries of the hotel business. These managements are entitled to "three to ten per cent profit, let alone the large salaries of the foreign staff."

Jordan Hotels and Resthouses Corporation (RESTCO) Director Musa Al Nabar said that foreign companies which operate RESTCO's hotels in Jordan do not lose any money, nor do they even pay the salaries of their staff and their profits are always secure whether the hotel made any profits or suffered losses.

He added that 260 Jordanians are employed to work for these RESTCO's hotels in addition to 30 daily paid workers, all under the supervision of four foreign firms.

I asked why these hotels cannot be run and fully operated by Jordanians instead of foreigners who come and take away our profits for the sake of offering us services, now that we have the experience to operate successfully?

This same question was put to Dr. Jawad Al Anani, board director of the Social Security Corporation (SSC), which lately decided to acquire and run RESTCO's hotels. I also asked whether the public sector's hotels will stop being a rival for the private sector hotels.

Dr. Anani said: "This is what we intend to do and we will transform these hotels into companies and sell them to the private sector. The labour ministry is however, under obligation to maintain the employment of the staff at RESTCO's hotels and we also hope that RESTCO will become a Jordanian company for hotel management offering services to local and regional hotels, he pointed out.

## Rationalisation of tourism

For Mr. Yasser Abu Al Sa'oud, president of the Jordan Travel Agents Association the hotel situation in Jordan is not so gloomy as painted by hotel owners. He believes that tourism in Jordan does not face a disaster, on the contrary tourism is progressing, but at the present there is a stagnation in business due to a drop in tourist numbers worldwide, the Iraq-Iran War and close competition from neighbouring states.

He said, Jordan has to be more competitive and has to find means of attracting more than 750,000 tourists and vacationers annually visiting the country. Tourist activity is based on these principles: cheap domestic tourism, regional tourism and international tourism.

In support of Mr. Sa'oud's views, Mr. Qousus says at least 1,100,000 tourists visited Israel in the past year, and in November alone, 75,000 tourists stayed in Israel's tourist centres while the number was a mere 3,000 for Jordan in that month.

Attracting tourists is a challenge that we are confronting in our political and economic life. Therefore, tourism institutions should give due concern to foreign tourists who pass through Jordan on their way to the occupied Arab territories, and should find means of supporting the steadfastness of the Arab tourist sector in the occupied regions. Rationalising tourism in Jordan is a must, since Jordan has been for the past five thousand years a tourist area before becoming an agricultural one.

This country still serves as a territory through which caravans pass to holy places for performing pilgrimage, others travel via Jordan on business or trade but most of those who pass here are Arabs. Tourism in Jordan had assumed an international image instead of being planned on the basis of encouraging regional and domestic tourism. In fact, foreign tourists coming to Jordan make up only 16 per cent of the total numbers of visitors and continue to get all the attention of tourist institutions in like the majority of the Arab tourist. Therefore we need to rationalise our tourist industry and introduce new systems that offer this industry long term service and ensure more success.

This re-orientation of tourism should be made to regard Arab and Jordanian tourists as the country's prime target. It is well-known that an Arab or Jordanian tourist prefers a motel to a hotel and a chalet to a private apartment, for privacy. This form of service in tourism has not yet acquired the interest of the tourist authorities in contrast with the hotels. Also the beach in Aqaba should be owned by all citizens and therefore open to domestic tourism and not owned and used by private citizens as the case is now, Dr. Qousus concluded.

## Speedy solutions

Now, what should be done to avert closure of more hotels?

What hotel owners suggest is offering them low interest loans to cover their current expenses and tidy them over their present difficulties. Also they ask that they be allowed a moratorium and more time of at least a year for repaying loans specially those of the Industrial Development Bank. They demand the tourism be treated as any other industry and offered the opportunity to delay paying high power and water bills.

But all this requires detailed study and facts and figures. The Jordan Travel Agents Association has carried out a field study in this respect in cooperation with the labour ministry, and this study can be employed in helping to promote Jordan's tourism which is the source of income for five thousand people. Definitely, tourism requires more attention as for Jordan, it constitutes a culture, civilisation, economy and progress.

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## 10 countries clash in Asian Squash Championship beginning in Amman today

By Anne Counsell  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — His Highness Prince Ra'd deputised for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan at the opening ceremony for the Second Asian Squash Championship held Tuesday at the Sports City Palace of Sport. Also attending was Minister of Youth and Culture and Antiquities Abdullah 'Oweidat.

A display of Jordanian folklore dancing and music from the Jordanian Army Band welcomed the participants from Kuwait, Sri Lanka, Bahrain, Malaysia, Singapore, India, Pakistan, Lebanon and Palestine who also watched an exhibition match staged at the international court.

The players will be competing in a series of 21 individual and team matches starting today, Wednesday.

Dr. Fawwaz Toukan, spokesman for the Jordanian Squash Federation (JSF), told the Jordan Times about the tournament and the development of squash as a sport in Jordan. He said that this is the first international championship in any game organised

in Jordan and that the JSF has been preparing for the tournament since 1980. He added that it is not only the first international championship to be staged here in Jordan, but also the first time a world champion, Jahangir Khan of Pakistan, will be playing in the country.

Dr. Toukan said that Jordan is the President of the Arab Squash Federation (ASF), with Amman as the permanent headquarters, and is also the second vice president of the Asian Federation. Dr. Toukan said that this championship was very important for Jordan because as a result of hosting these tournaments, Jordan could become the first vice president of the ASF and will also be

eligible to join the International Squash Federation which is based in Ottawa, Canada.

The cost of the tournament is being financed from all the squash federations budget for 1984, approximately JD 4,000, explained Dr. Toukan. He said that this did not cover all the expenses of renovating the courts, accommodation for the visiting teams etc., but contributions from individuals and the provision of free airline tickets from Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, to bring the players from abroad had greatly helped in the financing of the event. He also said that the government and the manager of Sports City, Mr. Issam Areda, had also provided encouragement and assistance in the organisation.

Outlining the development of squash in Jordan, Dr. Toukan said that it is a relatively new sport, the JSF itself was only established in 1980, but it has become increasingly popular with more youngsters playing and attendances good at the matches due to fans taking an interest in the national team players. He also said that His Highness Crown Prince Hassan

played a very significant role in promoting the sport through financial assistance as well as being the Honorary President of the Jordanian Squash Federation. Dr. Toukan said that squash is appealing as a sport because it can be played all year round, it is excellent for physical fitness and is social with the formation of clubs at the universities, the Sports City and the Royal Automobile Club. The equipment is also relatively inexpensive with a range of choice and prices for rackets and clothing, he said, but the limitation is the lack of accessible courts for people who do not belong to such clubs.

Regarding the selection of the national Jordanian team for the event, Dr. Toukan said that several ladder tournaments were staged throughout last year to select the 12 best players who all trained together as the national team before four players were selected 3 weeks ago to represent Jordan in the championship. Jordan's national team comprises of Yousef Soufan (captain), Hamid Saeed, Nidal Quart and Mohamed Murar.

The trainer of the national Jordanian squash is Fahim Gul from Pakistan, who is ranked 16th in the world. He said that it was only two years ago that Jordan became known in international squash when they visited Karachi. He became trainer of the Jordanian squash team last August and said that since then the team has been through an intensive training programme comprising of exercises both inside and outside the court for five hours a day to bring them up to international standard. Mr. Gul welcomes the tournament as a test for both the team and himself to prove themselves in the international circuit.

### Stenmark scores 3rd slalom win

PARPAN, Switzerland (R) — Swedish ski ace Ingemar Stenmark cruised to his third World Cup slalom victory of the season and surged ahead in the standings of his favourite discipline Tuesday.

The taciturn 27-year-old clocked up a combined time of one minute 47.36 seconds, ahead of Marc Girardelli of Luxembourg with 1:47.63 and Austrian Franz Gruber with 1:48.58.

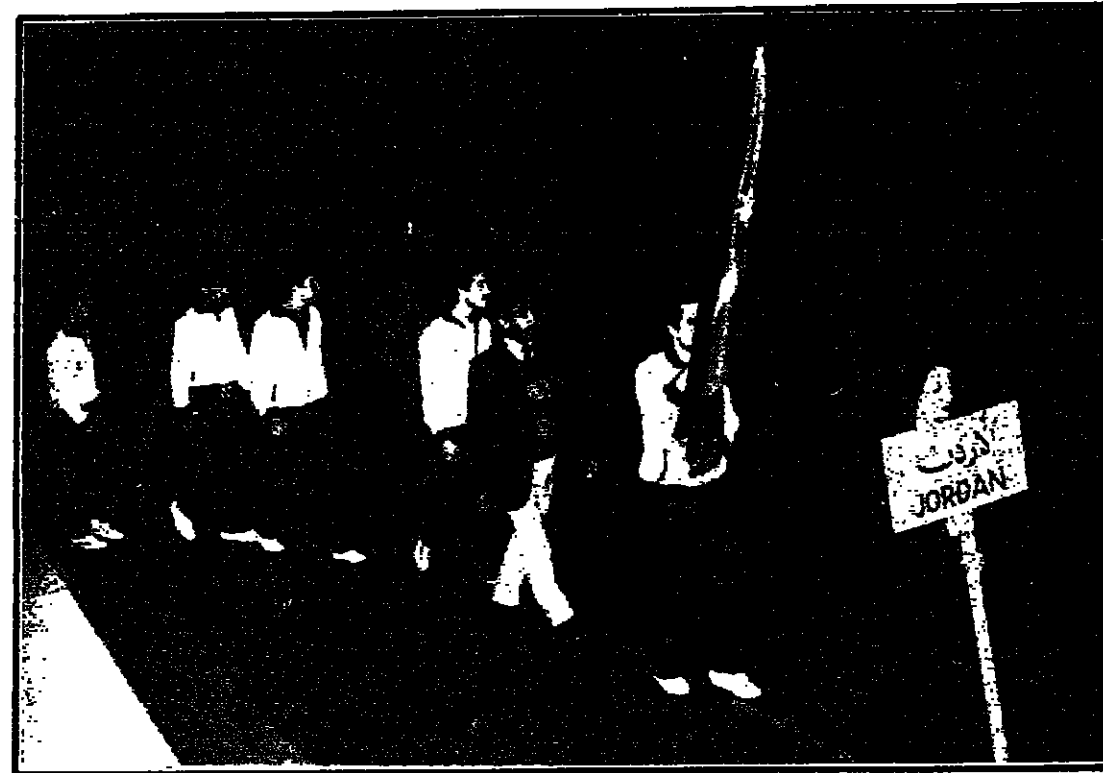
But Stenmark, who crashed out of the slalom here on Monday, conceded after the race that he had more luck Tuesday.

He started the 62-gate second run third, 0.72 seconds behind the rising star of the Austrian team, first-leg victor Robert Zoller. He was also 0.21 seconds behind American Steve Mahre.

But Zoller, 22, who was virtually unknown until he came a surprise second behind Stenmark in Madonna di Campiglio late last year, abandoned shortly into the second run.

Steve Mahre, who was disqualified Monday after a number mix-up with twin brother Phil, lost a ski in the second leg.

Stenmark, banned from the Winter Olympics in Sarajevo, said after the race that his prime goal this season was to carry off the World Slalom Cup which he has already won an astonishing eight times. Tuesday's win took him 18 points clear of second-placed Gruber in the slalom standings.



Jordanian national squash team at the opening ceremony of the Second Asian Squash Championship held at the Sports City in Amman Tuesday (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

## ITF names Navratilova, McEnroe world champions

LONDON (R) — John McEnroe of the United States was Tuesday named the official Men's World Champion for 1983 by the International Tennis Federation (ITF) but failed to win the unanimous support of the judging panel.

Martina Navratilova, also of the United States, who lost only one match in 1983, was named Women's World Champion by virtue of her unassailable points' lead on the women's international circuit.

McEnroe, 25, was chosen on a majority vote by the panel of former champions — Dong Budge of the United States, who was the first player to win the Grand Slam, Fred Perry of Britain, Wimbledon Champion three times in succession from 1934, and Australia's Lew Hoad, who was Australian, French and Wimbledon Champion in 1956.

The panel made their decision in New York last weekend before

McEnroe beat Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia to win the Grand Prix Masters title.

Budge and Perry both voted for McEnroe, the Wimbledon Champion, but Hoad went for Mats Wilander of Sweden, winner of the Australian Open last month and eight other Grand Prix tournaments in 1983.

Budge said: "After a year in which all four Grand Slam tournaments were won by different players, there were so many vital factors to take into consideration. In the end it came down to a decision between John McEnroe and Mats Wilander."

"Fred and I both acknowledged that Wilander had a marvellous year... yet after lengthy consideration we felt that McEnroe should get the verdict for three principle reasons. Both of us are convinced that for all the progress that Wilander has made over the last twelve months, McEnroe remains the most excitingly tal-

ented competitor in the game today.

"In addition, McEnroe won Wimbledon which most people including the players still regard the biggest and most important tournament in the world. And at Wimbledon there was a bigger field and a greater overall strength of entry than in Australia where Wilander had his success."

Hoad said: "I voted for Wilander because it seemed to me that he has the better record over the year and I don't think you can argue with that. He also had a great year in terms of Davis Cup matches. I agree though that McEnroe, basically, is still the best player."

The women's title was based on the points' table which Navratilova has dominated. In 1983 she won Wimbledon, the U.S. Open and Australian Open, which leaves her chasing the French title this year to win the ITF's one-million-dollar Grand Slam bonus.

## Hungary must wait till next year for Grand Prix

PARIS (R) — Hungary will have to wait till next year to become the first East European country to stage a Formula One motor race while South Africa risk losing their Grand Prix, the International Motor Sport Federation (FISA) said here Tuesday.

A FISA press statement said the Hungarian federation, which had applied to stage a Grand Prix in Budapest this year, had satisfied all FISA's sporting, administrative and financial demands.

"It was very important to organise a Grand Prix in the countries of Eastern Europe for the first time, but because 19 requests have been presented for 1984, the Budapest Grand Prix has been postponed to 1985," the statement said.

South Africa are due to stage the second Grand Prix of the season at Kyalami on April 7. But FISA said it would be taken off the calendar if the international federation did not receive a guarantee that alterations had been made to the circuit and financial guarantees from the race organisers.

FISA said they would announce the official World championship calendar and list of cars on February 1.

FISA said the Spanish Grand Prix would be first reserve for the 1984 World Championship.

Rivalry over staging the Belgian Grand Prix has been resolved by holding this year's event in Zolder and the 1985 and 1986 races in Francorchamps.

FISA said this had been agreed by the Belgian national sports authority, the two respective local organising clubs and the International Constructors' Federation (FOCA).

The statement also said the presidents of FISA and the International Commission of Rallies would attend this month's Monte Carlo Rally to inaugurate the 1984 Rally World Championship.

## Wolverhampton brought down to earth by Coventry

LONDON (R) — Wolverhampton, who humbled English first division leaders Liverpool at Anfield on Saturday, found neighbours Coventry a very different proposition Monday night.

When the two teams met at Coventry in a Football Association (F.A.) Cup third round second replay, Wolves were surprisingly lacking in the qualities which earned them Liverpool's scalp and lost 3-0.

Graham Withey and Steve Hung scored in the first half and Withey collected a second goal midway through the second half. Third division Scunthorpe, for whom England cricketer Ian Botham makes occasional appearances, found the fire which has been conspicuous by its absence in the League to beat Leeds 4-2 in another third round second replay.

Their reward is a tie against first division West Bromwich.

## Panel considers Vilas's final arguments

NEW YORK (R) — Representatives of Argentine Guillermo Vilas Monday presented their final evidence before the review officers considering his appeal against a one year ban and \$20,000 fine imposed last year by the Men's International Professional Tennis Council (MIPTC).

The ban was imposed after Vilas allegedly received appearance money at a Grand Prix event in Rotterdam last March. The review officers, former American players Bill Talbot and Vic Seixas and motor company attorney Forrest Hainline Jr., are due to make a decision on the appeal late Tuesday.

A public hearing into the allegations and ban was held last month.

## Paris prepares for Olympic bid

PARIS (R) — Paris could soon apply to stage the 1992 Summer Olympics if town and state authorities back a newly-completed study outlining how the French capital might organise the games.

One year after the French National Olympic Committee first expressed ambitions of bringing the games to France, a four-part commission has completed a report, details of which have been leaked in French newspapers.

France would like the 1992 Olympics — it is also interested in staging the winter games — to mark the centenary of the speech by French Baron Pierre de Coubertin which spawned the modern Olympic movement.

The report was compiled by representatives of the State (Sports Ministry), the National

Olympic Committee, the town of Paris and the region of Ile de France which encompasses the capital.

French newspapers put a provisional budget at between 4.5 and six billion francs (\$530-700 m). They broadly agree that the willingness of Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac and his administration to commit themselves to the project would depend on how much the state would contribute.

The study was being distributed Monday and Tuesday to the Olympic committee and the offices of the president, prime minister, sports ministry, mayor and Ile de France regional council.

It envisages, according to an extensive report in the daily Quotidien de Paris, an Olympic village divided over two or three sites —

Tolbiac, near the proposed press centre and the less central venues of Creteil and Marne-la-Vallee well outside the city boundary.

A brand-new sports centre in Bercy, opening next month, would stage the swimming, weightlifting, fencing and indoor team finals.

Athletics would be held in a new arena in the Bois de Vincennes on the eastern outskirts of the city on the site of a ruined stadium named after World War I U.S. General John Pershing.

The Roland Garros stadium, home of the French Open, would be a natural choice for the tennis. Fontainebleau would stage equestrian events, while Nantes, on the river Seine to the west of Paris, is equipped to provide the venue for the rowing.

## West Indies beats Australia in World Series Cricket Cup

SYDNEY (R) — West Indies, lifted by a fine innings of 108 not out by opener Desmond Hynes, beat Australia by 28 runs in the World Series Cricket Cup match here Tuesday night despite being without front-line bowlers Joel Garner and Malcolm Marshall.

Australia made 195 for nine in reply to West Indies' total of 223 for seven from 49 overs. To add to a thoroughly disappointing day for the home team they were fined 600 Australian dollars (\$540) for failing to bowl the full 50 overs in the day-night match.

After four rounds, the West Indies now have six points in the three-team series with Australia and Pakistan level on three points.

West Indies made a shaky start, losing their first three wickets for 55, but then Haynes linked up in an 80-run partnership with captain Clive Lloyd. They took the score to 135 before Lloyd fell lbw to Rodney Hogg for 40 which included two huge sixes.

Haynes kept plugging away and although steadily losing partners he ensured a good total on a slow pitch still damp from recent heavy rains. He batted for 210 minutes and hit eight fours.

Geoff Lawson was the best of the Australian bowlers, took three for 30 in his ten overs. With injuries keeping Garner and Marshall out of the West Indian attack, Australia must have had high hopes of victory and an

opening stand of 68 between Queensland pair Kepler Wessels and Greg Ritchie enhanced this prospect.

West Indies' were also handicapped by Lloyd's absence for most of the Australian innings. He damaged a finger on his right hand trying to take a slip catch.

Australia's decline began when Ritchie, having made 30, went recklessly for a third run and was brilliantly run out by a Wayne Daniel throw from the covers.

Seven runs later Wessels (27) was trapped lbw by the spin of Viv Richards and the score became 76 for three when Allan Border slammed a catch to Richards at mid-on off Eldine Baptiste.

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# Sugar exporters meet

LONDON (R) — Major sugar exporting countries Monday began informal talks aimed at resolving differences over a new international sugar agreement to stabilise prices.

The price of raw sugar has drifted down to less than 7 cents per pound from over 11.5 cents in August on forecasts of a continued high surplus in world sugar stocks.

2 United Nations conferences in Geneva have made little progress as the world's 4 largest sugar exporters — Australia, Brazil, Cuba and the European Community — have failed to agree on stocking levels to support prices.

World sugar production is expected to fall to around 93.5 million tonnes in the year to August 1984 from some 100 million tonnes in 1982/83 but sugar economists say output is expected to recover in 1984/85.

Stocks surplus to working requirements will remain high at up to 13.5 million tonnes, they say.

The sugar economists say a rising world surplus would put renewed pressure on prices, particularly if no signs emerge of a new, effective international sugar agreement.

The present pact expires at the end of 1984. But there are plans to resume Geneva talks in March, depending on progress here and on confirmation from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) that it can provide accommodation.

Conference chairman Mr. Jorge Zorreguieta has proposed that control over supplies coming to the market should be provided at pre-set price levels by exporters fulfilling stock-holding obligations. Their obligation to hold stocks would not override minimum export entitlements.

Australia and the European Community want these entitlements to be in line with recent export performance. Delegates say this would allow the community to export 5.4 million tonnes each year after fulfilling its stock-holding obligation.

The current talks, are scheduled to continue until Jan. 27 if necessary.

## LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Share prices closed lower on profit-taking and at 1500 the F.T. index was down 8.1 at 805.6.

The absence of institutional interest prompted a defensive marking down initially. Subsequent moderate selling suited jobbers' short positions but closing prices were above lows due to technical factors, market sources said.

Leading industrials lost up to 10p. Government bonds fell as much as ½ point ahead of Wednesday's tender for the £1 billion 10 per cent treasury convertible 1990 stock. Gold shares were mixed and North American stocks eased.

Glaxo shed 10p to 785. Thorn EMI fell 8p to 634 and BOC closed 6p down at 291. Bowater moved against the trend adding 8p to 262 in response to some U.S. demand, dealers said.

Banks rallied with Barclays 7p up at 429 and in mixed insurance Refuge Assurance was up 10p at 446 while Britannic Assurance was 5p off at 516. Shell was down 10p at 585 and other oils were narrowly mixed.

Racal fell 2p to 200 ahead of results due Wednesday. RTZ gave back 25p of its recent gain but Cable and Wireless added 10p to 305 after press comment, dealers said.

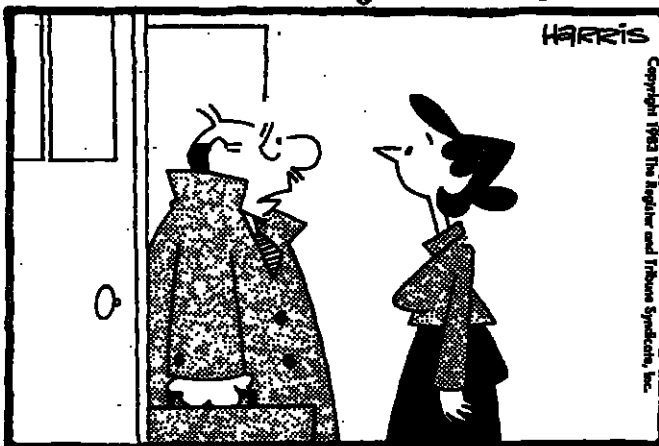
## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One sterling	1.4263/73	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.2452/55	Canadian dollars
	2.7865/75	West German marks
	3.1345/60	Dutch guilders
	2.2210/20	Swiss francs
	56.8791	Belgian francs
	8.5264/90	French francs
	1691.75/1692.75	Italian lire
	233.72/82	Japanese yen
	8.1275/1375	Swedish crowns
	7.8050/8125	Norwegian crowns
	10.0850/0925	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	368.50/369.00	U.S. dollars

## THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



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THAGUT

WHAT DO YOU CALL IT WHEN PIGS DO THEIR LAUNDRY?

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: STOKES ADULT BUCKLE EXCISE

Answer: What happened to the man who sued the porter? — HE LOST HIS CASE

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Lagos makes loan payment on schedule

LAGOS (R) — Nigeria's new military government has made on schedule a \$110 million payment on a \$1.2 billion "Jumbo loan" raised in 1977, banking sources said Tuesday. It was the first international debt repayment authorised and made by the military government since it seized power. The sources said the repayment, made on time Monday, had been keenly awaited by Western banks looking for action to confirm statements by the new government that it would honour the country's international commitments. It was also the first repayment of principal on the loan, the sources added.

### Temsa, Mitsubishi plan to co-operate

ISTANBUL (R) — The Turkish automotive company, Temsa, part of the big industrial group Sabanci, is planning to build buses and trucks in Turkey under licence from the Japanese company Mitsubishi. Temsa officials said Monday. General Manager Ergenekon Ucoik told Reuters talks had been held with Mitsubishi in Istanbul and Tokyo, although no agreement had been signed yet. "But within the coming days there might be an agreement that will enable us to start manufacturing buses at the end of this year," he said. He said the planned deal would include building buses and heavy trucks but he declined to give more details.

### Indian workers begin indefinite strike

CALCUTTA, India (A.P.) — Nearly 250,000 Indian jute mill workers began an indefinite strike Monday to demand higher salaries and better working conditions, officials said. India is the world's largest producer of raw jute. The domestic jute industry has been hit by a recession since 1982. Authorities reported that the strike shut down all the 59 jute mills in West Bengal, of which Calcutta is the capital. The mills produce an estimated 1.2 million tonnes of jute goods a year. Meanwhile, drug stores throughout India were closed Monday during a day-long strike called to press the demand for the abolition of sales tax on medicines. Seven per cent tax is levied on sale of drugs in India.

## .5m Israelis live below poverty line

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — The number of Israelis living below the official poverty line doubled between 1977 and 1982, according to a report by the National Insurance Institute released Tuesday.

The institute's annual report for 1982 said about half a million Israelis, or 14.3 per cent of the population, were living in poverty. 125,000 were children.

Israel's inflation, which last year reached a new record of 190.7 per cent, has particularly hit people living on fixed incomes since welfare payments and pensions have failed to keep up with price rises.

About 300,000 of Israel's poor depended solely on welfare payments for their income, the report said.

A person was said to be living in poverty if his monthly income was less than 14,000 shekels (about \$330).

The report said the number of large families below the line had grown dramatically in 1982 and about a quarter of all families with 4 or more children were living in poverty.

Meanwhile, Israel announced Monday night new curbs on foreign currency holdings as part of an austerity programme designed to revive the country's flagging economy.

Israelis going abroad will be allowed to purchase only \$2,000 instead of \$3,000, the Bank of Israel said. Only \$500 of the \$2,000 will be in actual currency, with the remainder in travellers' bank cheques.

Israelis will no longer be permitted to hold more than \$2,000 and the limit on gifts sent abroad will fall to \$2,000 from \$3,000 a year.

## Turkey seeks \$300m credit

ANKARA (R) — Turkey is seeking a \$300 million medium term loan from international banking markets to help finance the new government's free-market economic programme, central bank officials said Tuesday.

### U.S. banks licensed

The last medium term credit secured by Turkey was last July when it gained a \$200 million, 5-year loan from 33 banks for balance of payments financing.

It was the first medium term facility obtained by Turkey from international markets since 1977.

According to initial government projections, this year's current account balance of payments is expected to show a deficit of \$835 million after a \$1.1 billion deficit in 1983.

The officials said they wanted the credit they were now seeking to be for more than 5 years and they were at present negotiating with potential lead managers.

They declined to give more details.

The conservative government of Prime Minister Turgut Ozal, which took office last month, has raised interest rates, liberalised imports and foreign exchange regulations, enhanced export incentives and cut bureaucracy in an attempt to regenerate the economy.

The First National Bank of Boston and Chase Manhattan Bank have received permission to open full commercial branches in Turkey.

The First National has permission to open an initial branch in Istanbul, with a capital of \$9 million, and 3 more branches in other cities later on. The second branch would require \$6 million additional capital and subsequent branches at least \$3 million each, the government gazette specified Tuesday.

Chase Manhattan also has permission to open an initial branch in Istanbul, with a capital of \$6 million. Its plans to open 3 further branches would require additional capital of at least \$3 million for each, according to the gazette.

At present, the only American banks with commercial branches in Turkey are American Express and Citibank. There are 9 other foreign banks with branches in Turkey.

## Thatcher concedes not cutting spending

LONDON (A.P.) — Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher Sunday defended her tight-money policies, but conceded her Conservative government's attempts to curb state spending had met with little success.

"As a proportion of national income it is higher now than when we took over," she said in an interview on the independent television network's "Weekend World" programme.

"We've tried to hold it. But to some extent, because economic growth has fallen, it became a bigger proportion of our national income than it was when we took over," added Mrs. Thatcher.

### FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, JAN. 18, 1984

## YOUR DAILY Horoscope

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Until noon, you have the opportunity to use your own cleverness to put across some interesting plans that you think the public or some group would like very much.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) There is an opportunity for you to add to present security in the morning. Later, you may encounter opposition from a jealous person.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) You can communicate well during the daytime and make big headway. Avoid tension at home in the evening.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) The morning brings an opportunity for gaining added success. Later, use tact to avoid arguments and displeasure.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) You find the right way of gaining private aims in the morning. Later, take care not to overspend on anything.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) You can finally get that personal affair nicely straightened out this morning. Later, see only those friends who are peaceful and pleasant.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You are inspired how to gain a personal goal. Go after information you need quietly. Refrain from being selfish with your mate.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Some extra benefits from your work are possible. Avoid a good friend who is not in a good mood at this time.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) A new project can bring accomplishment. Steer clear of an angry high-up. Assiduous application to your career is needed.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Doing something thoughtful for your mate can bring pleasure. Don't try to change anything. Drive less hurriedly.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Morning is fine for working on some special civic or business matter. Tonight, do nothing to upset your mate.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You can work admirably in the morning. After lunch, a partner is apt to give you some trouble, so be prepared.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Morning is best for arranging pleasure for the evening. Get right at the duties facing you and handle them well.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will have the ability to dream up new projects and get them to work like a charm. Be encouraging and give as much education as possible. The temper is apt to be short, but as the years go by, self-control will be learned.

"The Stars impel; they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

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### British Airways is soon to feature super club service on all intercontinental routes

AMMAN — Mr. John Larkin, British Airways manager for Jordan, Lebanon and Syria, advises that British Airways super club service which has attracted thousands of trans-Atlantic travellers is soon to feature on all intercontinental routes. It will bring extra luxury to passengers with a seat wider than the average British armchair.

This advance means that again British Airways leads the world with the widest seats offered by any international airline in the business class cabin. This is in response to the needs of our passengers particularly business people who want more space in the club cabin. The six-abreast super club layout with seats in pairs gives each passenger a generous 24 inches between armrests, 4 inches more than in a most armchairs.

Together with 36 inches of knee room free drinks/free in flight entertainment/ a choice of main meals and separate check in at many airports around the world super club brings first class style

comfort to the business traveller. The new service will begin on May 1 on all the airlines Boeing 747 and TriStar aircraft flying to the Middle East, the Indian subcontinent, the Far East and Australasia. Flights to the Caribbean and Africa will have the improvements even earlier.

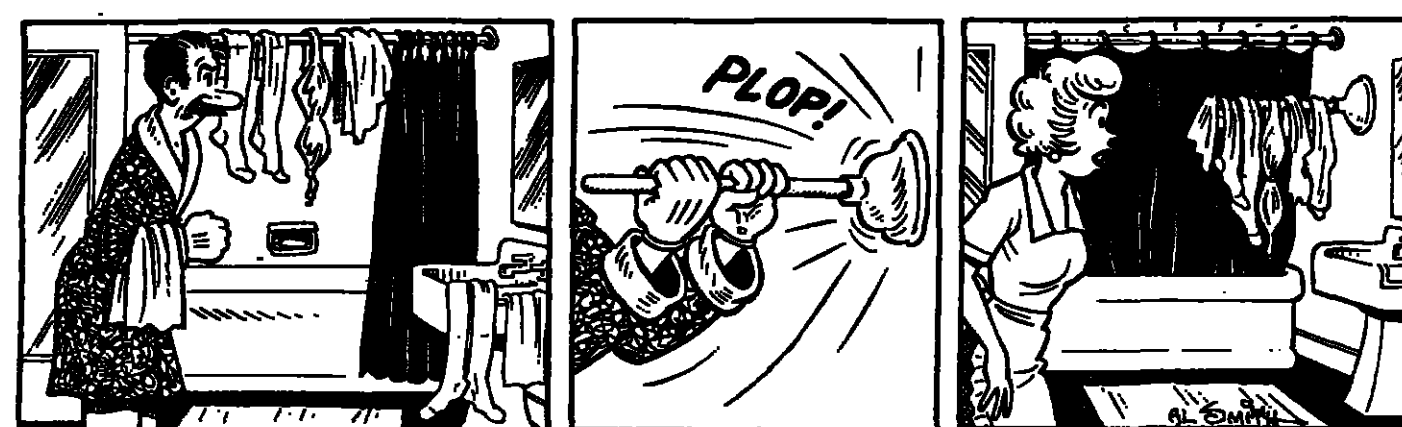
British Airways introduced super club on routes to the USA in 1981 and to Canada in 1983. The improvements in standards of service and passenger comfort have been appreciated so much by our passengers that we have decided to extend them to all other intercontinental flights. Mr. Larkin said.

The experience we have gained from super-club across the Atlantic will help us to provide the highest possible standard of cabin service on the rest of our longhaul routes. The introduction of super club raises our standards and level of competitiveness even further.

### Peanuts



### Mutt 'n' Jeff



### Andy Capp



## THE Daily Crossword

by Louis Sabin

ACROSS

1 Person

5 Small fly

9 Fathers

14 Indonesian

15 A Chaplin

16 "Norma," for one

17 Algonquian dwelling

20 Bandleader

21 Haggard novel

22 Rhododendron

23 Bloth

25 Net

26 Bank business

27 Total

28 This, in Juarez

32 Blip-maker

34 Added

36 "That he is mad, — true"

40 Soul, to Pierre

41 Animal invented by Lewis Carroll

42 Bach's medium

43 Flowerless plant

45 Fib

46 Snicker— business

47 Bypass

49 Leather piece of a book

52 Maltreats

55 Silkworm

56 Stop — dime

57 Native American sale of 1626

61 Milton's "vegetal" the sun"

62 Field

63 Amino —

64 Bring back to court

65 Ottoman governors

66 "— also serve"

11 —tasse

12 Seed covering

13 Droops

18 Certain notes

19 Pre-refrigerator VIPs

24 Detergent

25 Melody: Ger.

27 Gaze

29 John Ford western

30 Songstress Turner

31 Org.

32 WWII flying group

33 Sigher's expression

34 Be patient

35 Shelley poem

38 Sign up

39 Provoked

41 Snack eater

46 Group

48 Farinaceous

49 Klesinger

50 — Oakley

51 Rice field

52 Asian river

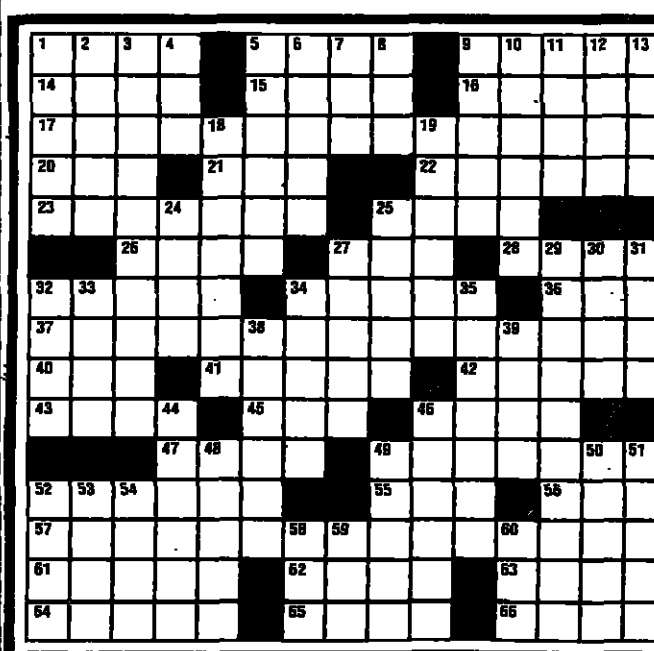
53 Reveal

54 Military group

58 Flap

59 Aviator

60 Old lang.



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## European disarmament talks start

**STOCKHOLM (R)** — Ministers and diplomats from 35 countries Tuesday began a conference on curbing the dangers of war in Europe which will feature high-level U.S.-Soviet talks.

Swedish Foreign Minister Lennart Bodstrom opened the European Disarmament Conference, which groups members of the NATO and Warsaw Pact alliances with neutral European nations.

Several hundred demonstrators paraded in a square outside the conference hall, including schoolchildren singing a Latin prayer, "Domine Nobis Pacem" (Give us peace).

The conference is the only major arms-related forum in which the United States and the Soviet Union are currently talking, following Moscow's suspension of nuclear arms control talks.

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko are due to hold talks Wednesday, their first

in four months of strained superpower relations.

Mr. Shultz, who speaks later Tuesday, was expected to repeat President Reagan's call this week for "constructive cooperation" with Moscow.

But Western ministers are expecting a tough speech from Mr. Gromyko, who is due to speak a few hours before his talks with Mr. Shultz Wednesday.

Before the opening session, the two men stood at opposite sides of the vanished pinewood conference hall greeting ministers and delegates from their own alliances.

French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson, who will speak on behalf of the European Community, said after talks with Mr. Gromyko Monday that the

Soviet Union felt like talking about the U.S. "in pretty tough terms."

A hard Soviet stance was also foreshadowed by the official TASS News Agency. It labelled a speech by President Reagan Monday, which Western diplomats saw as conciliatory in tone, as propaganda containing no new ideas for limiting the nuclear arms race.

Ministers from the 16 NATO countries coordinated strategy Monday night, and the 10 European Community nations were due to put finishing touches to a speech Mr. Cheysson will deliver in their name at the opening session.

The NATO ministers reviewed a package of proposals to be unveiled next week for tightening rules on notification of military exercises, mandatory invitation of observers, exchanges of information on military forces and improved crisis communications, diplomats said.

Western countries hope the

conference, part of a European cooperation process launched by the 1975 Helsinki accords, will focus on specific measures to prevent surprise attacks and misreading of military manoeuvres on borders between NATO and Warsaw Pact countries which could start a war.

But the Soviet Union is expected to use the forum to reiterate calls for more sweeping agreements, such as a non-aggression pact, which the West sees as irrelevant.

A senior Soviet official, Vadim Zagladin, said in an interview on Swedish television that Moscow would follow policy laid down by the Supreme Soviet last month.

Soviet proposals at the conference would include a non-aggression pact, a nuclear freeze and a ban on deployment of nuclear weapons in space, he said.

Western countries see such issues outside the scope of the conference, which they say should deal with measures affecting conventional forces only.

## Salvador rebels change strategy

**SAN SALVADOR (R)** — A large-scale surprise attack by leftist rebels on a provincial capital in northern El Salvador on Sunday has highlighted major changes in guerrilla strategy, military sources say.

They say guerrillas may for the first time be aiming to take a provincial capital — something they have not yet achieved in four years of civil war — to gain a bargaining counter with the government before elections scheduled for March this year.

The sources said a series of large-scale guerrilla attacks on major strategic targets beginning last month was a change from their previous policy of attacking and briefly holding small villages of minor strategic importance.

In their new offensive the rebels have captured an army garrison for the first time. More than 100 troops died in the guerrilla attack on the garrison at El Paraiso, the highest death toll suffered by the army in four years of civil war.

On Sunday about 1,000 guerrillas launched a five-hour mortar attack on the provincial capital of Chalatenango, killing four soldiers and wounding 14 others and losing at least seven of their own men.

It was the second attack on Chalatenango, a town of 23,000 people 50 kilometres north of San Salvador, in barely three weeks.

The guerrillas were forced to retreat after army reinforcements arrived by helicopter from the capital, but the insurgents scored a symbolic victory by managing to enter the heavily-defended town.

Military sources said the attack showed the guerrillas were able to escape detection while massing in large numbers for surprise assaults.

They said the attack also demonstrated the guerrillas still had good mortar supplies despite their barrage of the El Paraiso garrison on Dec. 30.

## Reagan to seek \$8.4b aid for C. America

**WASHINGTON (R)** — President Reagan is to seek aid for Central America of around \$8.4 billion over five years as recommended by the Kissinger commission.

Peter McPherson, administrator for the Agency for International Development, said President Reagan supported basic elements of the report on the region from the panel headed by former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger.

"The programme to be sent to Congress will be in the range of \$8.4 billion which the report has recommended," Mr. McPherson told reporters Monday.

The Kissinger commission recommended an increase of \$400 million in aid this year in addition to the \$477 million already requested for Central American countries.

Mr. McPherson said the administration was examining possible extra aid this year but said it was not bound by the commission figure.

Mr. McPherson said U.S. aid to Central America would include large trade credits or balance of payments support for necessary imports while countries set about restructuring their economies.

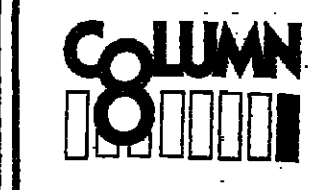
Aid would also lay the basis for long-term economic growth, aiming for 3.5 per cent real growth in per capita incomes within five years and \$1 billion in exports of manufactured goods. This should provide more than 250,000 jobs a year.

Literacy, health and housing would be a priority. Noting that about one-third of the region's people were illiterate, Mr. McPherson set a goal of 95 per cent primary school enrolment in five years. Infant mortality rates should be cut 15 per cent.

The aid programme would seek to boost progress towards democracy where all participated in a political process, Mr. McPherson said.

In a separate development, the administration said the number of press-reported civilian deaths in El Salvador caused by political violence fell from 177 a month during the first half of last year to 104 a month in the second six months.

The figures were in a lengthy report to Congress that included information on human rights, assassination investigations and political and social reform in El Salvador.



## Mondale wins debate polls say

**NEW YORK (R)** — A televised debate between eight Democratic presidential contenders was won by former Vice President Walter Mondale, according to a poll by ABC news and the Washington Post. The poll found that 33 per cent of 507 viewers sampled thought Mr. Mondale had won, compared with 13 per cent for Ohio Senator John Glenn and 12 per cent for civil rights leader Jesse Jackson. None of the other candidates received more than three per cent. The poll showed 25 per cent of viewers were undecided. The eight contenders had taken turns attacking President Reagan's domestic and foreign policies. They then turned on each other, with Mr. Mondale and Mr. Glenn trading insults and Rev. Jackson acting as peacemaker.

## Pele to star in Brazilian film

**RIO DE JANEIRO (R)** — Pele has signed a contract to star in a Brazilian film. Pele, 43, said he accepted a leading part in Pedro Mico because he was excited with the script. "Pedro Mico is the type of role that any actor would like to play. It tells the story of a mugger who lives in a shanty town but who, in the end, has a good heart. He's a sort of Robin Hood," he said. Since his retirement from full-time soccer in 1977, the goal-scoring king has been involved in several show business activities. But he has been offered \$5 million by New York Cosmos to come out of retirement for the third time.

## British royal family gets pay rise

**LONDON (R)** — Britain's royal family will have a four per cent pay rise this year, just below the inflation rate. Chancellor of the Exchequer (Finance Minister) Nigel Lawson told parliament. Officials said the rise might just be adequate to maintain existing standards and that any lower rise would mean a reduction in the scale of royal occasions. The government allocated £5 million (\$7 million) to the royal family for 1984, compared with £4.8 million (\$6.7 million) last year. Most of the money goes to maintain the household of Queen Elizabeth, who this year receives £3.85 million (\$5.4 million), a rise of 4.6 per cent or just under the inflation of 4.8 per cent. Other members of the royal family will have similar rises apart from Prince Charles, his wife Princess Diana and their baby son Prince William. As heir to the throne, Prince Charles has a separate income from the Duchy of Cornwall.

## Cannibal prisoners shot during escape

**CEBU, Philippines (R)** — Three members of a gang which eats its victims have been shot during an attempted jail break in the central Philippines, prison officials said Tuesday. Military authorities have ordered an investigation into the escape attempt on Sunday in which men armed with ice picks overpowered guards and tried to flee when the gates at the Cebu Prison were opened at visiting time. Authorities said three belonged to the "Way Sapatos", or "no shoes" gang, which was hunted late last year after members killed about 20 people during a reign of terror in mountain farms and villages in Cebu province.

## Cary Grant turns 80 today

**LOS ANGELES (R)** — His hair has turned white and he wears thick, horn-rimmed glasses. But the charm remains, he strides into rooms with the same spring in his step and his face still creases into one of the world's best-known smiles. Cary Grant, a Hollywood legend 18 years after he retired from films, celebrates his 80th birthday Wednesday. "Everybody grows older except Cary Grant," his late friend and co-star Grace Kelly once said. Grant denies it. "I stay tanned and I have kept my hair," he said. "But I know I look my age." Friends said Grant and his fifth wife, former British publicity agent Barbara Harris — 48 years his junior — had been deluged with pleas from Hollywood producers to be allowed to give him a birthday party. "But Grant will probably spend the day quietly with his wife and have a celebration dinner at their Beverly Hills mansion as he does on other birthday," a friend said.

## Greek reshuffle reflects focus on domestic issues

**ATHENS (R)** — Nine new ministers and under-secretaries were sworn into Greece's Socialist government Tuesday in a reshuffle focussing on key domestic areas such as health and the economy.

In his second major reshuffle since coming to power in 1981, Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu has recalled to the cabinet two former economic ministers and named a Socialist ideologue to the key health portfolio.

Apostolos Lazaris, a business studies professor who was dropped as top economic minister 18 months ago, becomes minister to the prime minister, while Sakis Peponis, also a former economic minister, takes over the new post of broad-based.

Pasok (Socialist Party) theoretician George Yannimatas becomes health minister at a time when a five-year-plan for a massive boost in state medical spending has run into problems, with Athens doctors on strike over pay.

Promises to trim private medicine and improve conditions in the state hospitals, where resources are scarce and patients are often crammed into corridors, were a cornerstone of the electoral platform that brought Pasok to power.

The return to the cabinet of Mr.

Lazaris and Mr. Peponis, and the replacement of George Moraitis as commerce minister by newcomer Vassilis Kedecoglou was seen by conservative commentators as an admission of failure in economic policy.

Inflation ran at 20.5 per cent last year, overrunning the government's modest target of getting it below 20 per cent after the 1982 figure of 21.0 per cent.

The economy grew by only 0.4 per cent last year after earlier forecasts of 1.5 per cent. While state investment in public works has increased sharply, more and more private firms are running into severe financial problems, economists say.

In the new cabinet, former U.N. technocrat Gerassimos Arsenis retains overall responsibility of the economy as national economy minister but his rival Mr. Lazaris, whom he replaced in July 1982, will now be able to exercise influence.

Foreign Under-Secretary Carlos Papoulas joins the cabinet as alternate foreign minister to Ioannis Haralambopoulos. But commentators say Greek foreign policy, dominated by last year's declaration of independence by Northern Cyprus, will remain Mr. Papandreu's personal domain.

## Peruvian, Ecuadorean troops clash on border

**QUITO (R)** — Ecuadorean and Peruvian troops have clashed on their disputed jungle border and their governments Monday traded accusations of responsibility, while reports of casualties varied.

In Quito the Defence Ministry said Peruvian troops fired at an Ecuadorean military base at Conocano, 650 kilometres southeast of the capital Sunday, killing one soldier and wounding another.

In Lima, the military command said a Peruvian outpost repelled an Ecuadorean attack.

Peru gave no official casualty figures, but a television journalist quoted Defence Minister Oscar Brush as saying 16 Ecuadoreans were killed while the Peruvians suffered no casualties.

A parliamentarian of the Ruling Popular Action Party said 15 Ecuadoreans were killed and there were no Peruvian losses.

Ecuador's Foreign Ministry said it summoned Peru's ambassador to Quito, Felipe Valdivieso Belaudne, to hand him a formal protest and demand an investigation into what it called a violation of Ecuadorian sovereignty.

It said unarmed Ecuadorean soldiers carrying out exercises had come under light weapons fire from Peruvian forces who entered Ecuador.

In Lima, the official news agency Andina said Peruvian troops had come under attack in an area where the border was perfectly defined.

It said Ecuador appeared to have taken a series of preliminary steps leading to the incident, including putting its troops along the border on alert, cancelling leave and increasing supplies to border posts by helicopter instead of by land as usual.

## Space shuttle films huge Soviet rocket

**LONDON (R)** — The U.S. space shuttle has photographed a top-secret Soviet rocket capable of carrying men to Mars, British television reported. Independent Television News (ITN) said Monday night the 290-foot (88-metre) tall rocket was the most powerful ever built. It was seen on a launch pad at Tyuratam in Kazakhstan.

ITN said Commander John Young photographed the Soviet rocket during the 54th orbit of the space shuttle's last mission in December.

According to ITN: "When the picture was enhanced by a computer they found they had the first shot of the most powerful rocket that's ever been built."

The rocket had previously been hidden even from spy satellites by

camouflaged netting, the report said, adding that this netting had now been removed.

It quoted an unnamed senior Pentagon official as saying: "It's a live bird and ready to be launched by the end of the year."

The report said the rocket, called the G vehicle, was not quite as tall as the Saturn 5 rocket which took the Americans to the moon. But it was more powerful and could lift a payload of 180 tonnes into a low earth orbit.

"NASA think it would be used to launch a 12-man space station, but it's also powerful enough for a manned mission to Mars," the British report said.

It added that the development of the vehicle and its launch site had been shrouded in secrecy by

the Soviet Union, but it dated back some 20 years.

The project, it said, had suffered some major setbacks. In 1969 the rocket exploded on the launch pad while being filled with fuel.

"In 1971 it reached a height of 12 kilometres and literally shook itself to pieces," ITN said.

Geoffrey Perry, a British schoolteacher who closely monitors Soviet space flights, said the rocket was originally intended to try to beat the Americans to the moon in the late 1960s.

"Now it's thought that they're going to use it to put up the very large core of a space station which will hold 12 men working on a shift basis permanently," said Mr. Perry.

## Glomp may go to Moscow if invited

**ROME (R)** — Polish Roman Catholic Primate Cardinal Jozef Glomp said Monday he would accept an invitation to visit Moscow but a formal offer had not yet been made.

Cardinal Glomp, who spoke to journalists on arrival in Rome, was commenting on reports that Patriarch Pimen of the Russian Orthodox Church planned to invite him later this year.

Vatican sources have said Cardinal Glomp might ask Moscow to allow him to visit Catholic Lithuania as part of a trip to the Soviet Union.

The primate said negotiations between the Polish government and church to establish full diplomatic relations between Poland and the Vatican were going well. He said he could not say if relations would be established this year.

But an informed Polish Vatican source told Reuters before Cardinal Glomp's arrival that the Polish church and the Vatican do expect diplomatic relations to be established by the end of the year.

Poland would become the first Warsaw Pact country to have full relations with the Vatican.

Cardinal Glomp, due to return to Warsaw Thursday, would brief the Pope on a long meeting he had with Prime Minister General Wojciech Jaruzelski this month.

Cardinal Glomp said he and Gen. Jaruzelski discussed a church-administered fund to help revive Polish agriculture and prospects for releasing Polish dissidents still under arrest.

"There are prospects. We are seeking a way of resolving this problem," Cardinal Glomp said of the arrested, who include 11 dis-

sidents and former Solidarity union officials awaiting trial.

He said the Pope's trip to Poland last June had helped the country move toward normalisation.

"The holy father's trip as a pilgrimage was very good. I think its fruits will be ever more evident in the future," he said.

Informed sources in Warsaw said Cardinal Glomp would also discuss with Pope John Paul the harassment by the authorities of priests who have condemned Communism from their pulpits.

At least four priests have been accused of abusing religious freedom and face criminal charges of slandering the state and spreading false information.

One of them, Father Jerzy Popieluszko, is also under investigation for alleged possession of explosives.

## Peking releases future plans for Hong Kong

**PEKING (R)** — China Monday released the most detailed blueprint in date of its plans for the future of Hong Kong, guaranteeing the colony's present social and economic system up to the middle of the 21st Century.

Ji Pengfei, state councillor with special responsibility for Hong Kong, set out the plan in an interview with the influential magazine Liaowang, released ahead of publication by the semi-official China News Service.

He also referred to a current series of talks between Peking and London over the future of Hong Kong.

"I can tell you the talks between Britain and China over the problem of Hong Kong have made definite progress," he told reporters from the magazine.

The plan puts into coherent

form the diverse strands of China's position variously leaked or announced over the last year.

"It is the most comprehensive statement of China's intentions to date," a Western diplomat in Peking said.

Mr. Ji's blueprint locks in with the broad vision of the British colony's future announced by Premier Zhao Ziyang last Friday during a visit to the United States.

Mr. Zhao said Hong Kong's social and economic systems and way of life would remain unchanged for 50 years after China takes the colony back from Britain in 1997.

The crux of the Chinese plan lies in making Hong Kong a Special Administrative Region (SAR), allowed under article 31 of the constitution.

Mr. Ji called on other countries

to support the plan, saying it was "that way, it will be to everyone's advantage," he said.

The next round of bilateral talks is scheduled for Jan. 25 and 26. The British side will be led by recently appointed ambassador Sir Richard Evans, replacing Sir Percy Cradock who has returned to London to oversee Hong Kong policy-making.

Riots over the weekend in Hong Kong sparked by taxi drivers' exasperation at what they see as low fares cast a shadow over the ambassador's arrival in Peking, expected on Thursday.

Last month a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said China should consider changing the timing of its takeover of the colony should serious "turmoil" break out.

Handwritten signature in Arabic script.